3
STORY BY
JUNICHI FUJISAKU
ART BY
YUKI YOSHIMOTO
BASED ON THE GHOST IN THE SHELL BY
SHIROW MASAMUNE
THE GHOST IN THE SHELL
攻殻機動隊
THE HUMAN ALGORITHM

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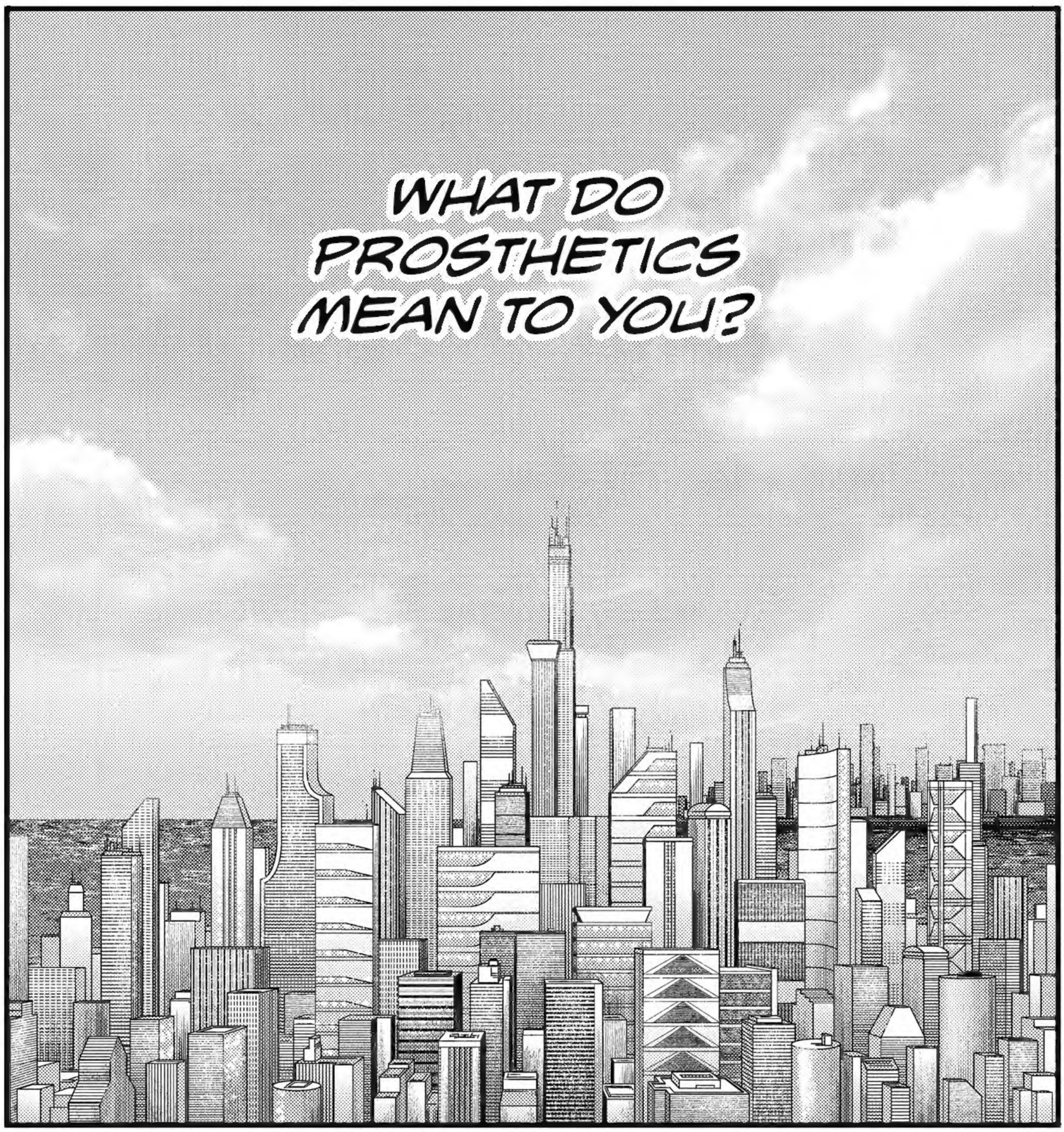
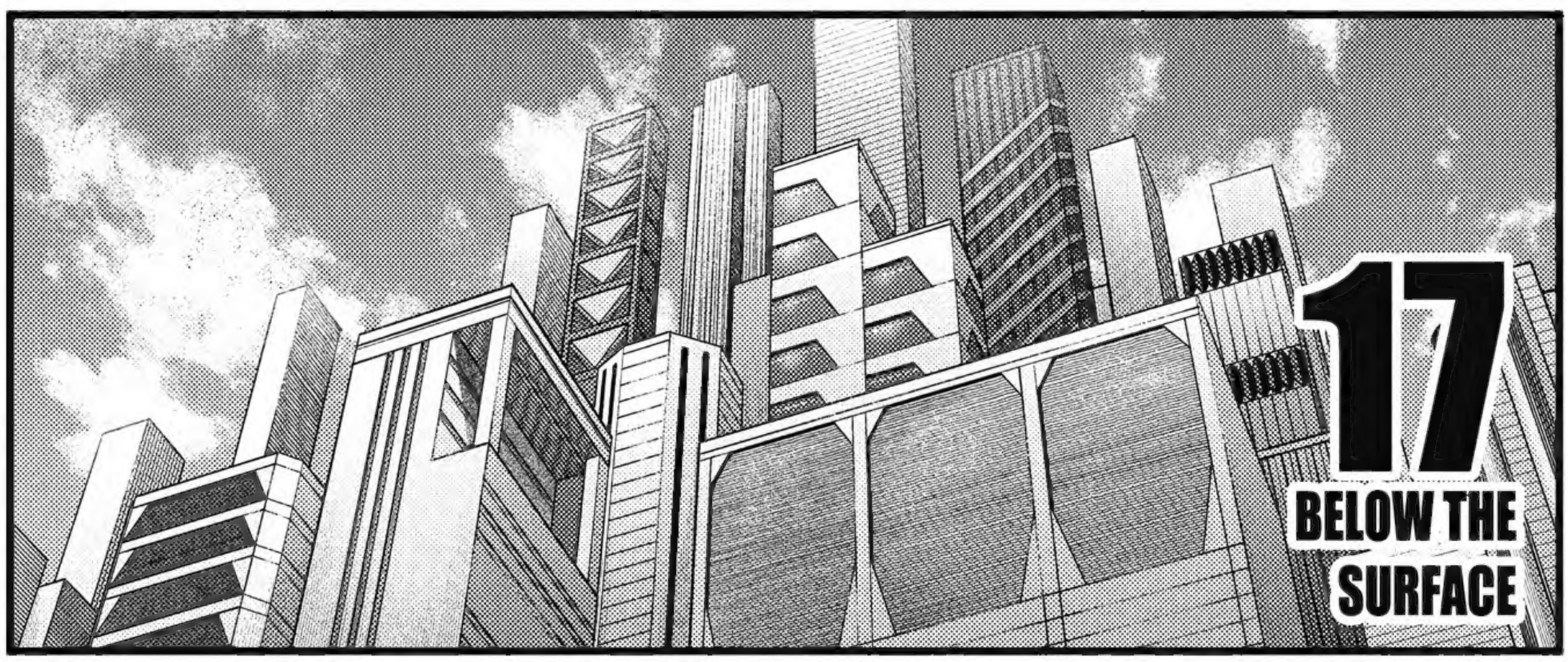
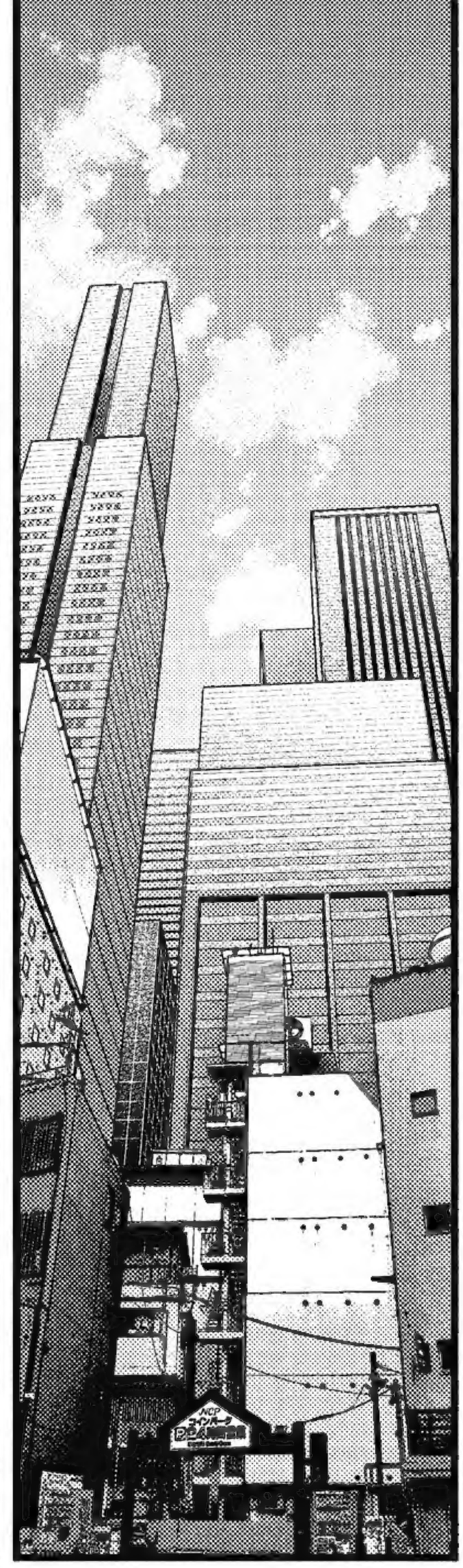
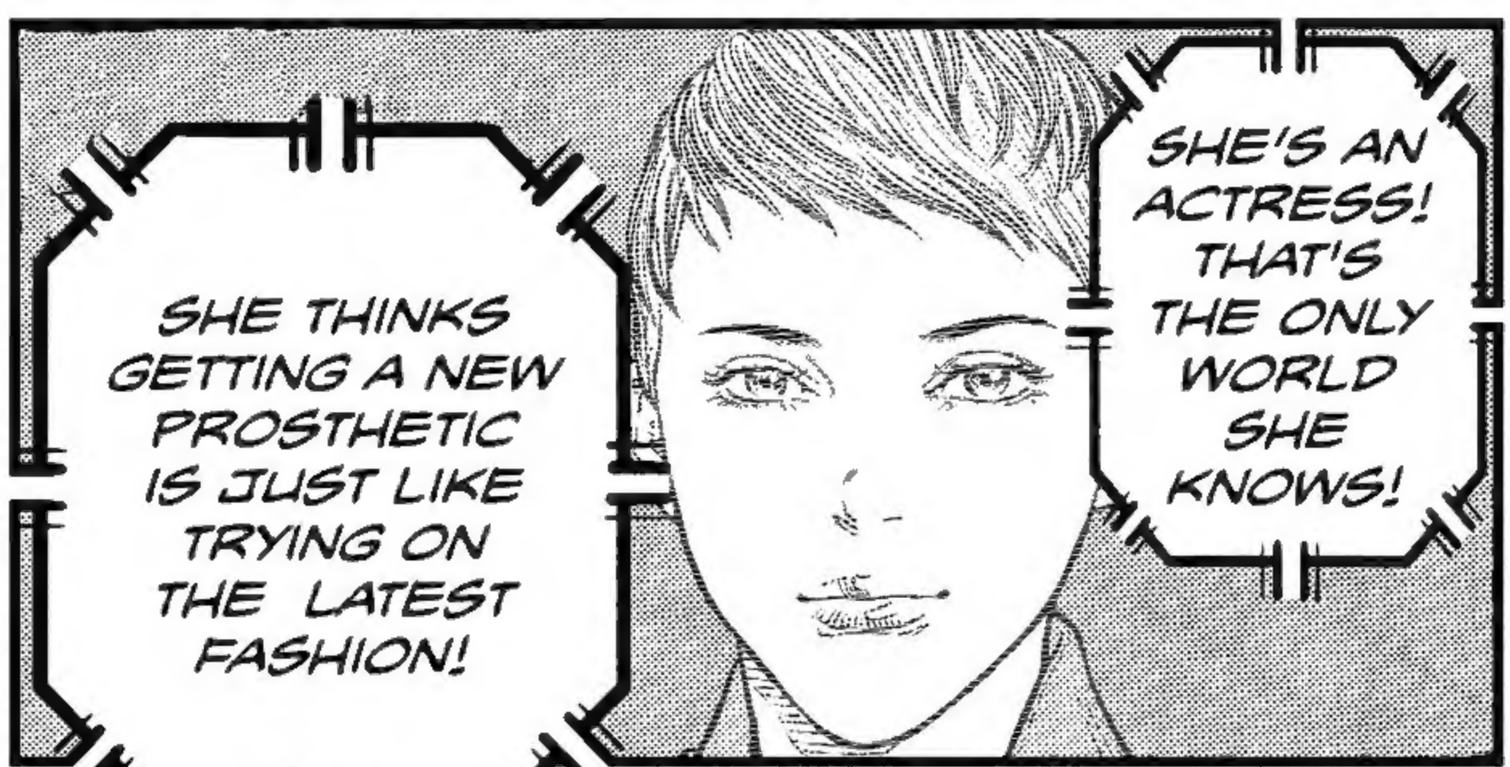

WHAT DO PROSTHETICS MEAN TO YOU?


17
BELOW THE SURFACE

THE FINAL SHOWDOWN
ELECTION DAY IN NEW PORT HAPPENS TOMORROW




SHE THINKS GETTING A NEW PROSTHETIC IS JUST LIKE TRYING ON THE LATEST FASHION!
SHE'S AN ACTRESS! THAT'S THE ONLY WORLD SHE KNOWS!

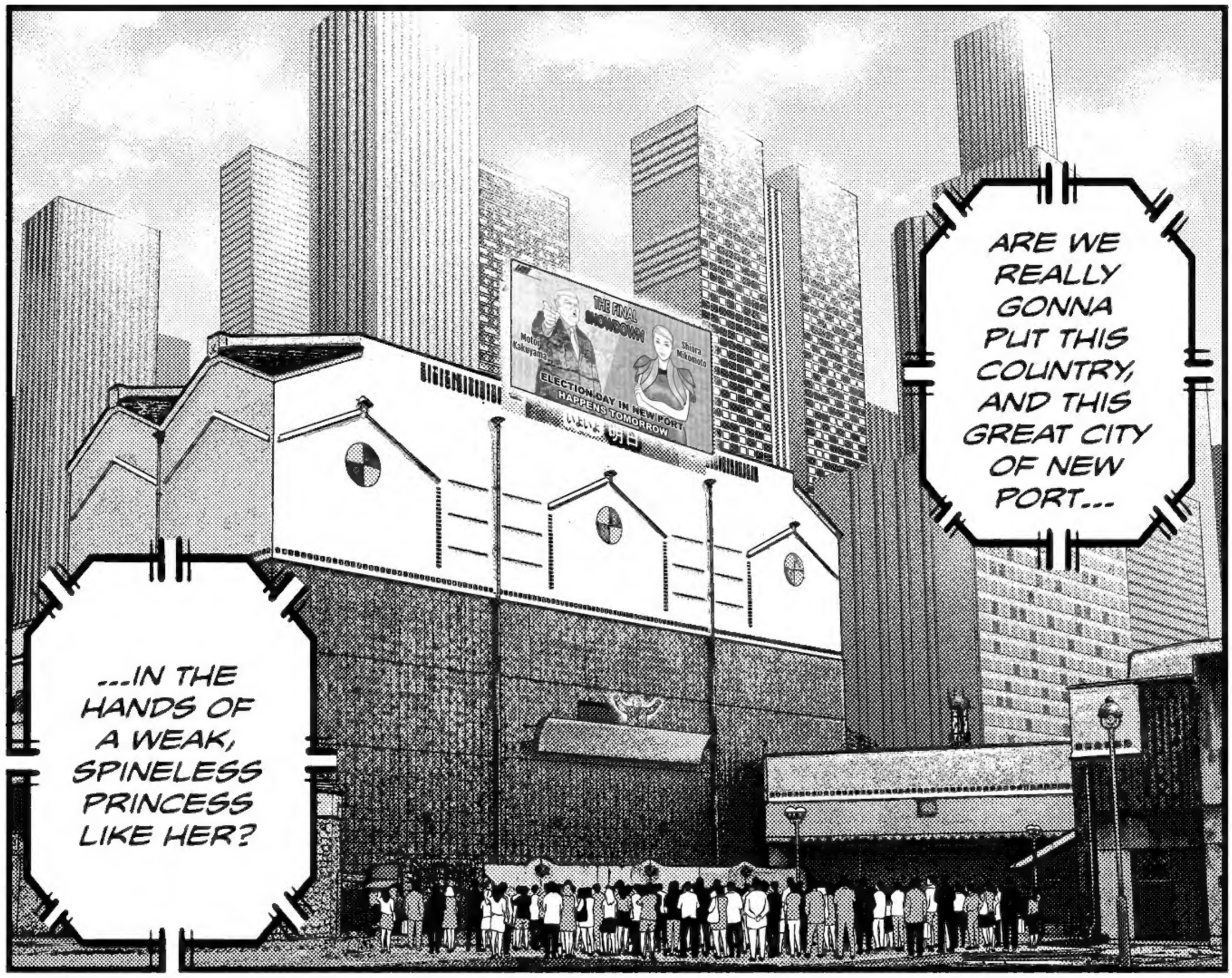
THE FINAL SHOWDOWN
Shinra Mikomoto
Motoi Kakuyama
ELECTION DAY IN NEW PORT HAPPENS TOMORROW
THAT'S THE KIND OF PERSON SHINRA MIKOMOTO IS!

AND NOW SHE'S STEPPING OUT IN NEW BODIES, LIKE SOME KIND OF PHONY PHOENIX.

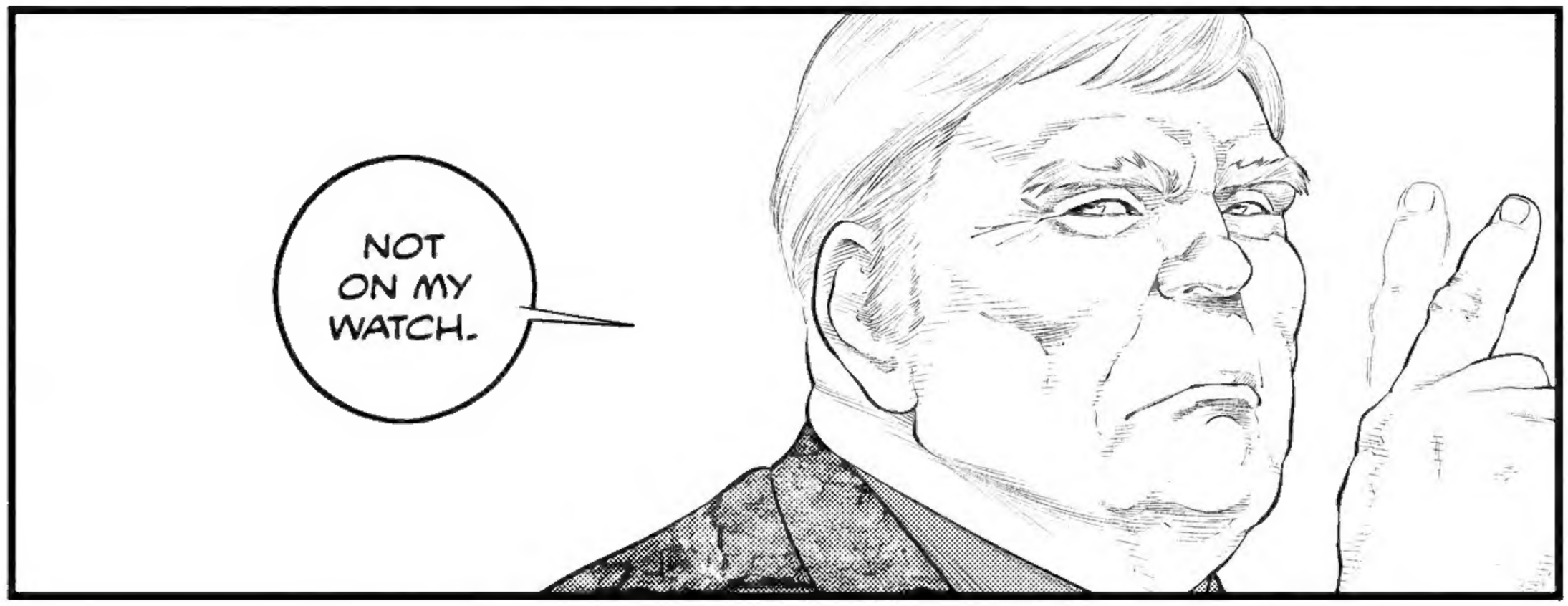
NEW PORT CITY PARK

IT'S NO WONDER THE PEOPLE ARE ANGRY!

ARE WE REALLY GONNA PUT THIS COUNTRY, AND THIS GREAT CITY OF NEW PORT...



...IN THE HANDS OF A WEAK, SPINELESS PRINCESS LIKE HER?



SO I ASK AGAIN. WHAT DO PROSTHETICS MEAN TO YOU?

...FOR THE BRAVE SOLDIERS WHO PUT THEMSELVES IN HARM'S WAY TO KEEP OUR COUNTRY SAFE.

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT THEY MEAN TO ME. THEY'RE A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE...

I'VE DEDICATED MY LIFE, BODY AND SOUL, TO THIS COUNTRY!

WHICH IS WHY I ASK YOU NOW TO CAST YOUR VOTE FOR KAKUYAMA!

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE BODY YOU'RE BORN WITH?

IT'S LIKE A HAND-WRITTEN LETTER. IT'S GOT WARMTH.

WE'VE GOT THIS PROS-THETICS THING ALL BACK-WARDS...

THAT USED TO MEAN SOME-THING IN THIS COUNTRY.

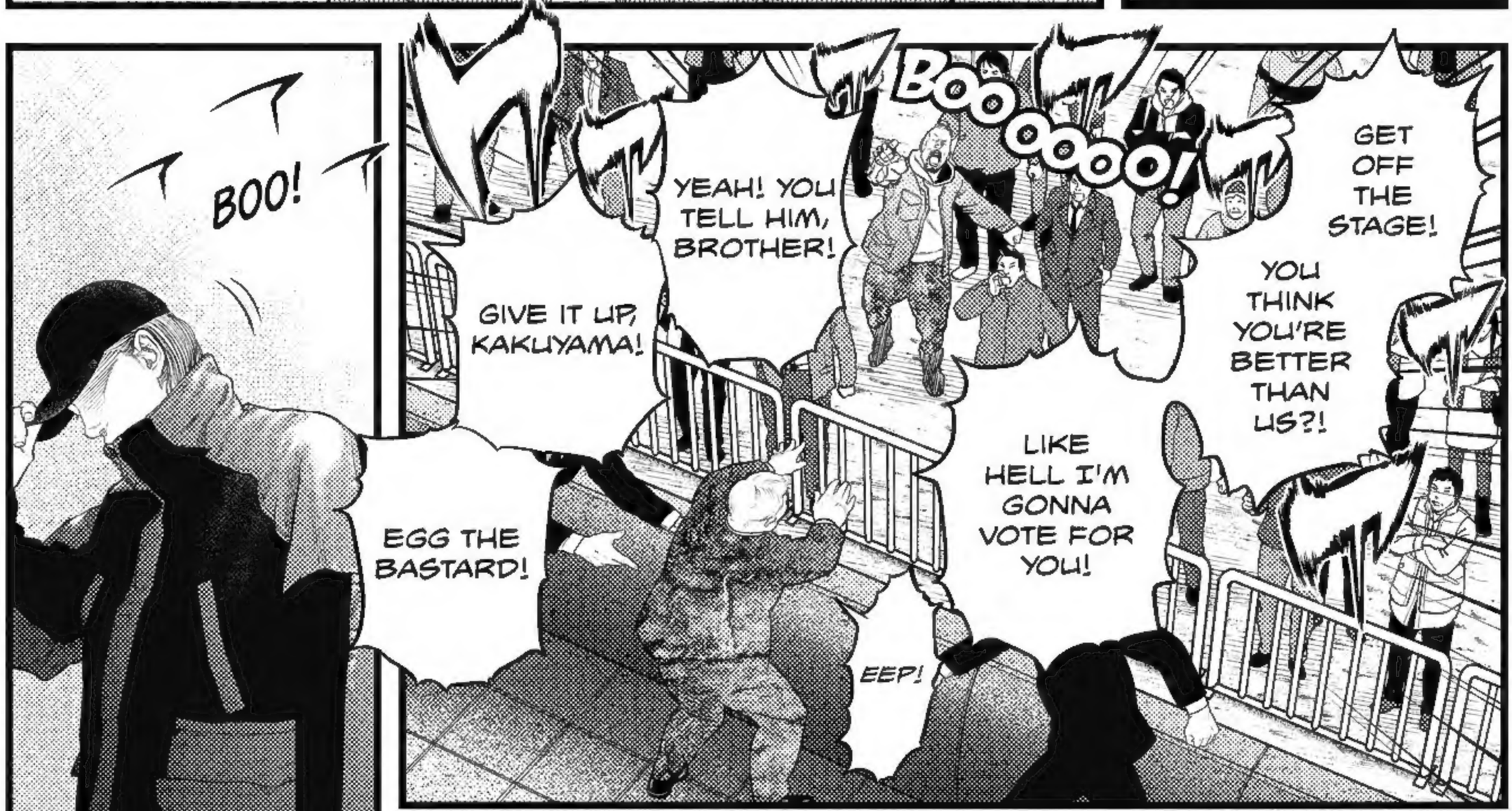
...

NAILED IT!

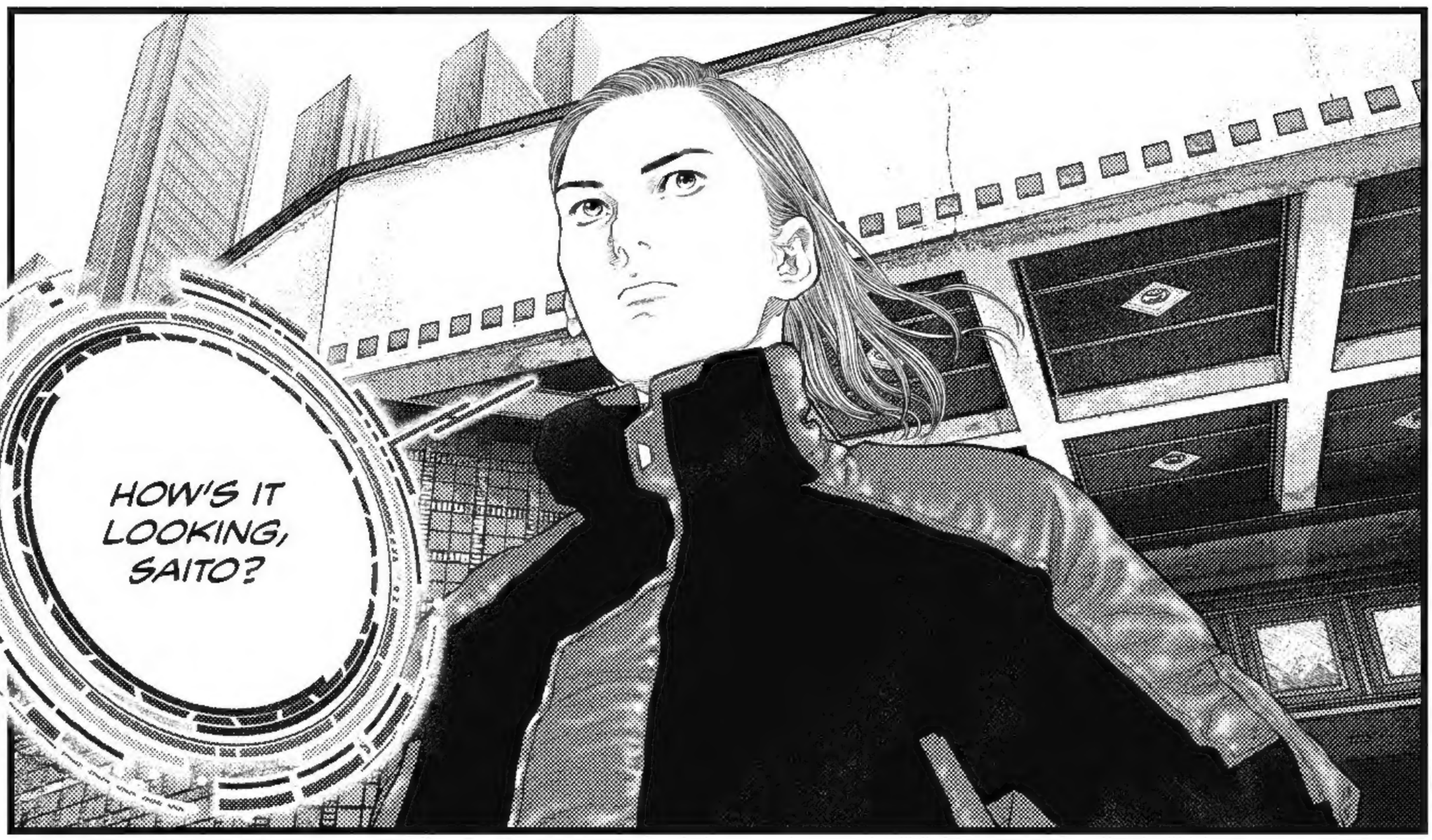
?!
KK
SPLAT
MAKE SOME NOISE FOR M–

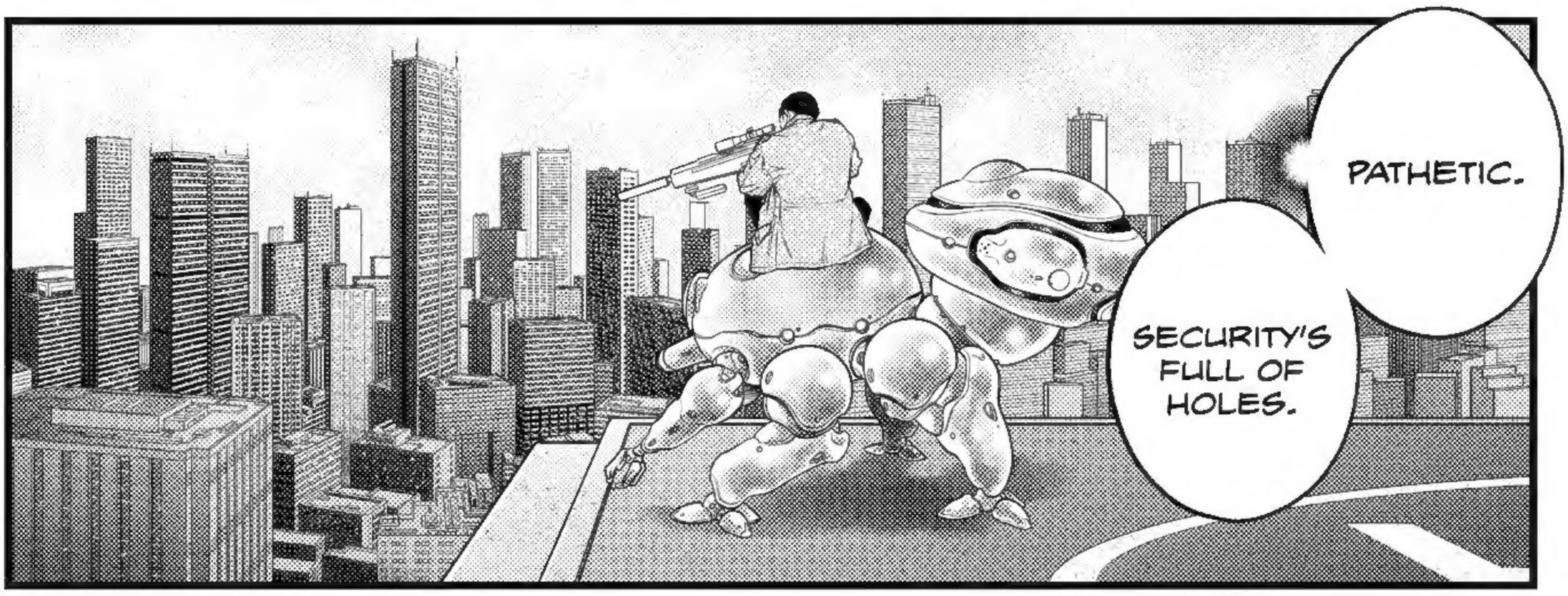
OKAY, PEOPLE OF NEW PORT! LET'S HEAR IT!
WHOOSH

...WE'D HAVE HAD PROSTHETICS DURING THE WAR, INSTEAD OF GETTING TORN TO SHREDS!
YOU'RE THE PROBLEM, OLD MAN! IF IT WEREN'T FOR GEEZERS LIKE YOU...


BOO!
YEAH! YOU TELL HIM, BROTHER!
BOOOOOO!
GET OFF THE STAGE!
GIVE IT UP, KAKUYAMA!
YOU THINK YOU'RE BETTER THAN US?!
EGG THE BASTARD!
LIKE HELL I'M GONNA VOTE FOR YOU!
EEP!

BOOOOO!
'COURSE, I HAVEN'T PULLED THE TRIGGER ON PROSTHETICS, MYSELF.
NOT GONNA WIN FRIENDS WITH A SPEECH LIKE THAT THESE DAYS.


HOW'S IT LOOKING, SAITO?


PATHETIC.
SECURITY'S FULL OF HOLES.

WE'LL BE READY. THE SHOW CAN'T START 'TIL COUNCILOR MIKOMOTO'S ON STAGE.

WE'VE GOT NO CHANCE OF STOPPING THE WHITE BEAR LIKE THIS.

CAN IT, AZUMA.
THAT'S LIKE TELLING BATOU TO DROP THE SARCASM.
TELLING A SNIPER NOT TO SNIPE?
SAVE YOUR BREATH, TOGUSA.
KSD

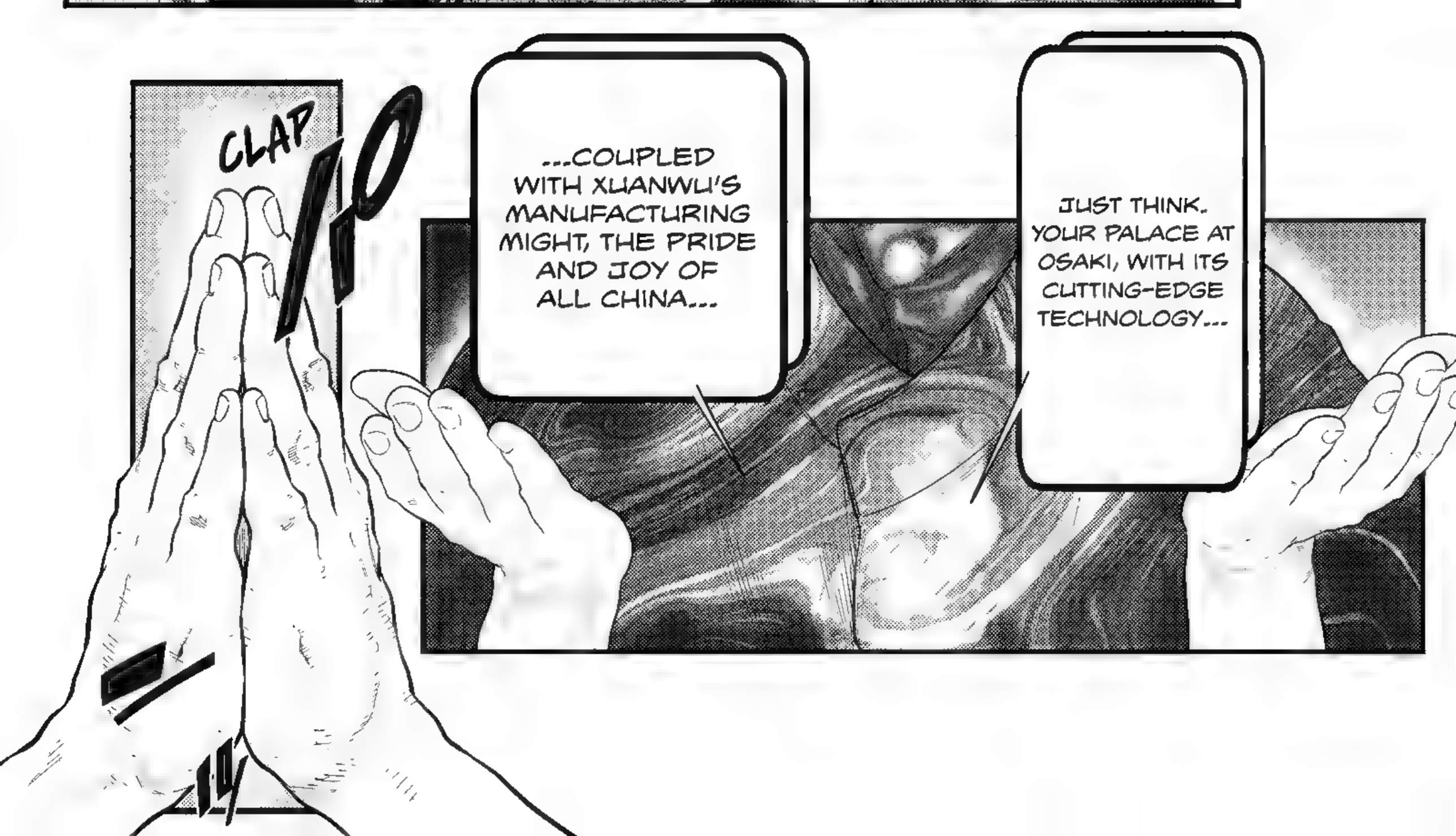
PAZ, HOW'RE THINGS AT THE OFFICE?
JUST SITTIN' TIGHT.

THE PRINCESS IS RIGHT HERE. PHYSICALLY, ANYWAY.

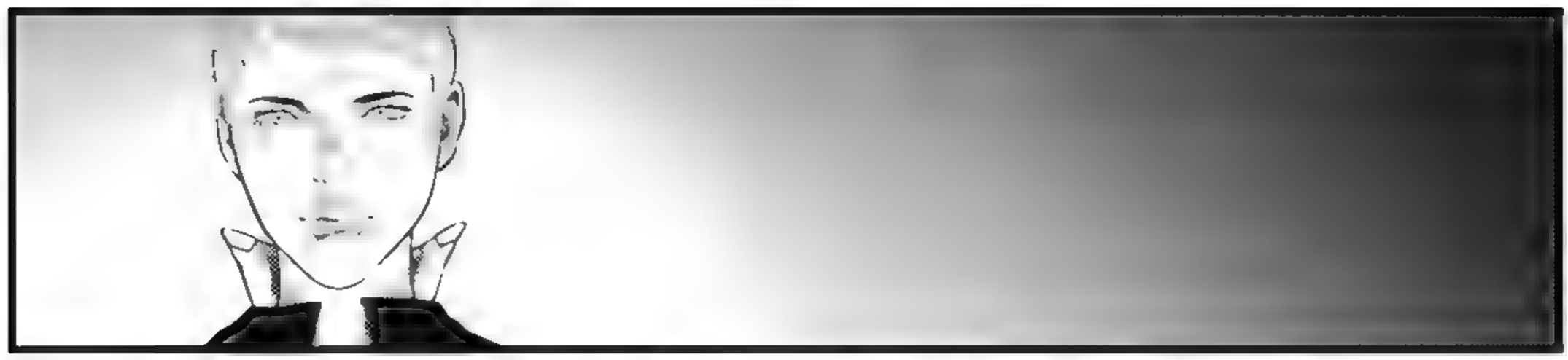
*INSCRIPTION: XUANWU INSTRUMENTS.

...THAT ONCE YOU TAKE OFFICE, XUANWU INSTRUMENTS INTENDS TO OFFER YOU A POSITION ON OUR HONORARY BOARD OF ADVISORS. ALL BENEFITS INCLUDED, OF COURSE.
AND I AM VERY PLEASED TO REPORT...

OH, MY.
THAT'S VERY GRACIOUS OF YOU.


CLAP
...COUPLED WITH XUANWU'S MANUFACTURING MIGHT, THE PRIDE AND JOY OF ALL CHINA...
JUST THINK. YOUR PALACE AT OSAKI, WITH ITS CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY...

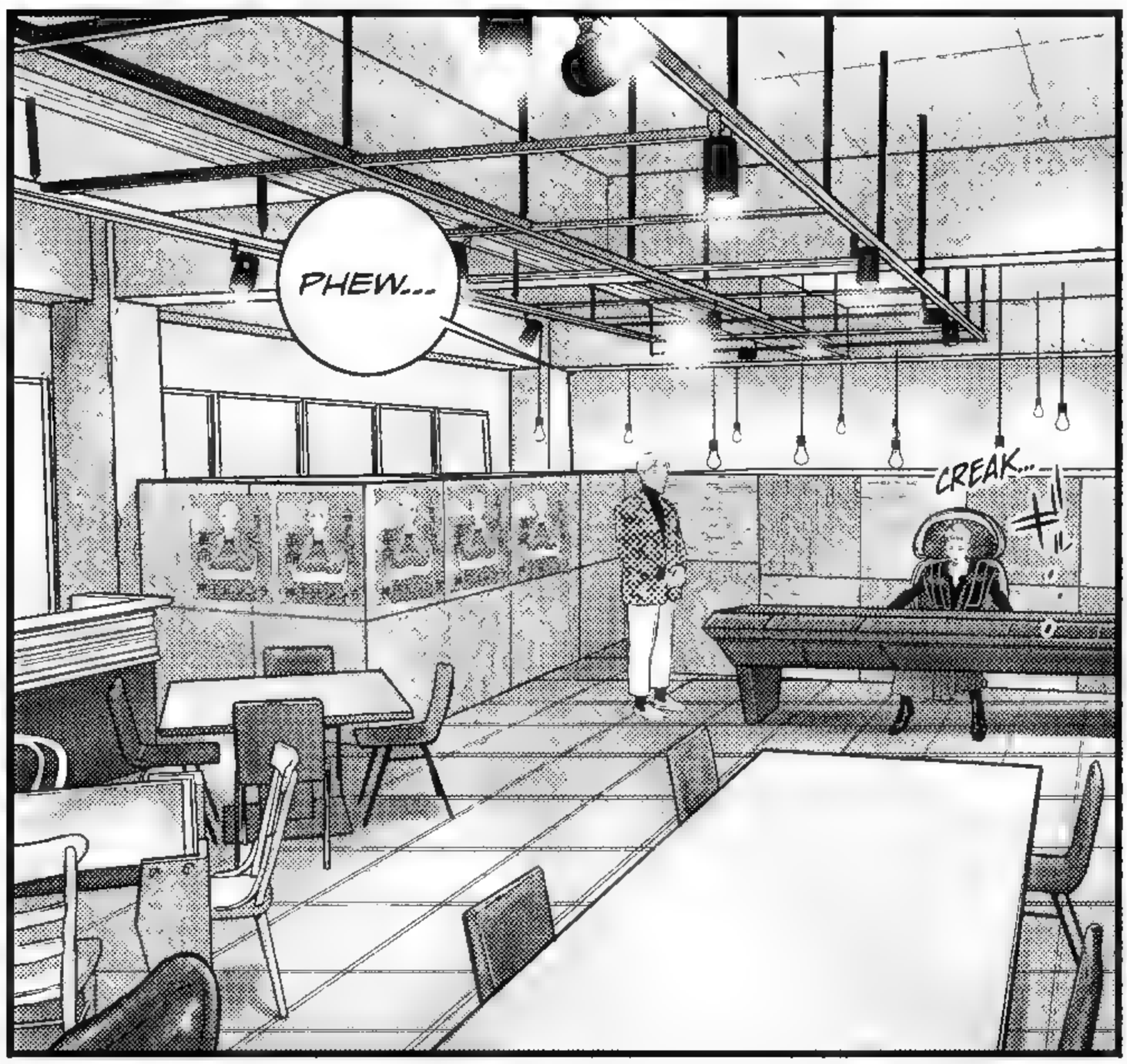
太平洋的霸权
TOGETHER, WE COULD RULE THE PACIFIC.



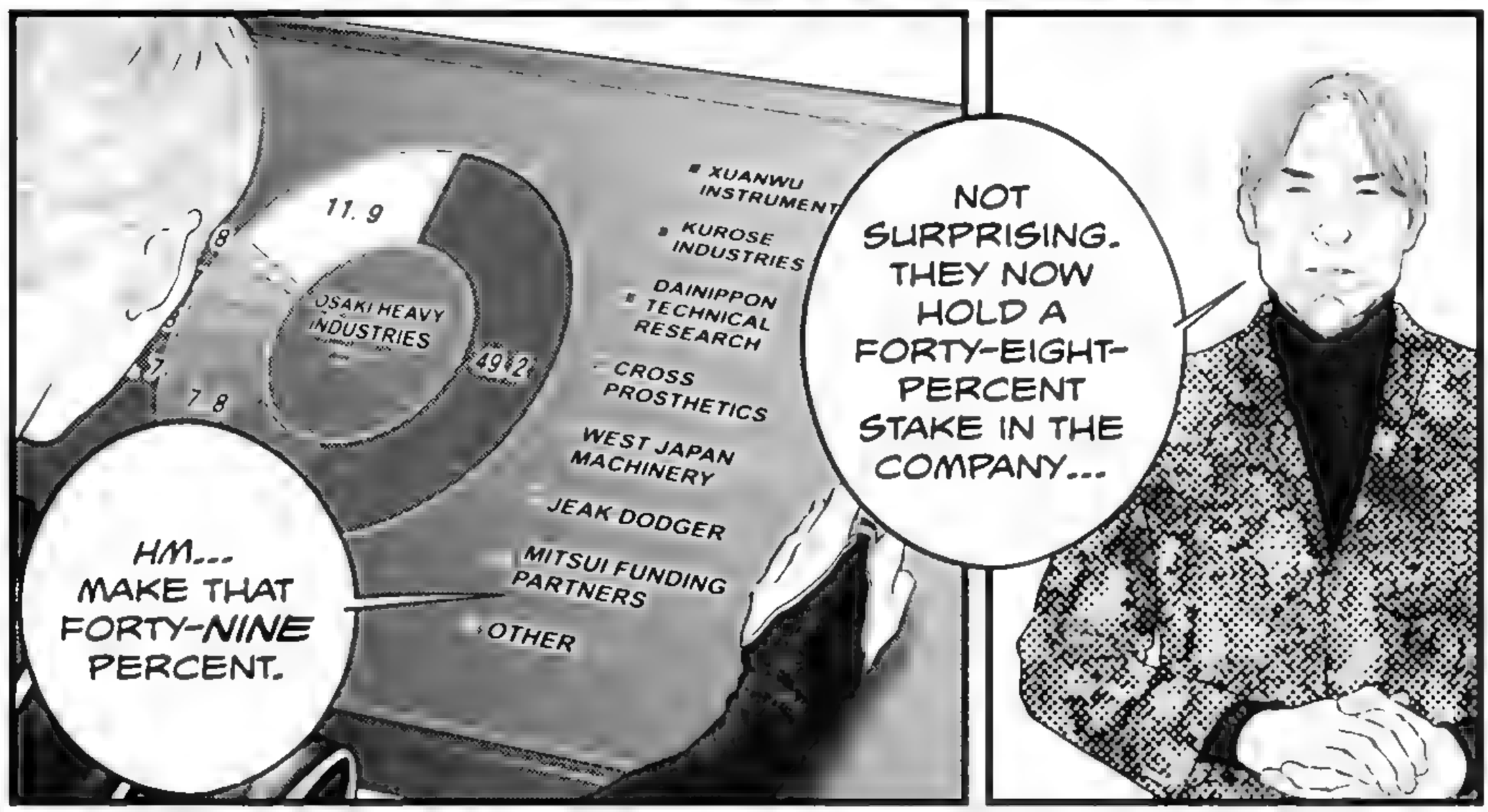
我更喜欢上人

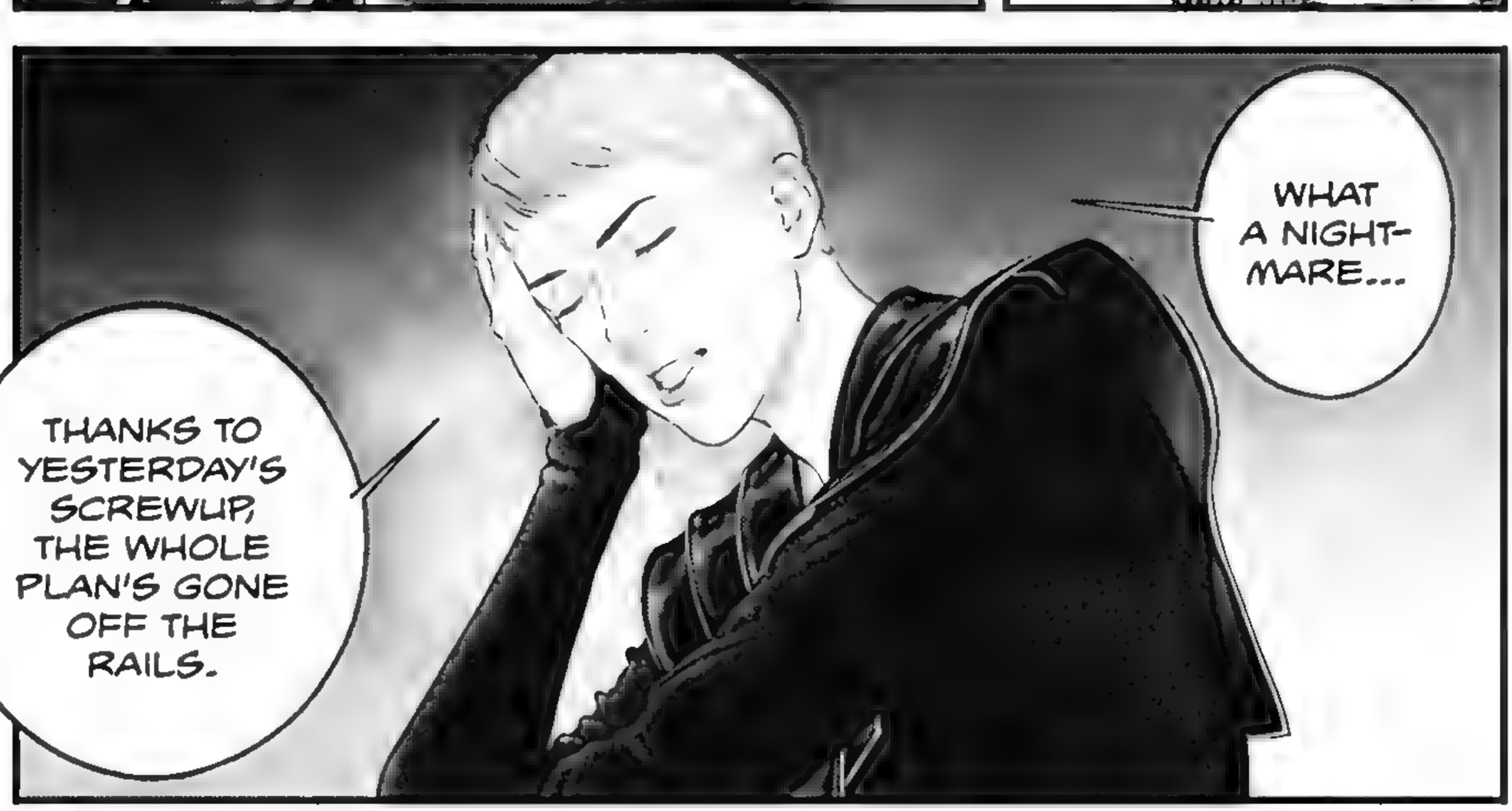
...WHAT I TRULY VALUE IN A WOMAN...

...IS FIDELITY.



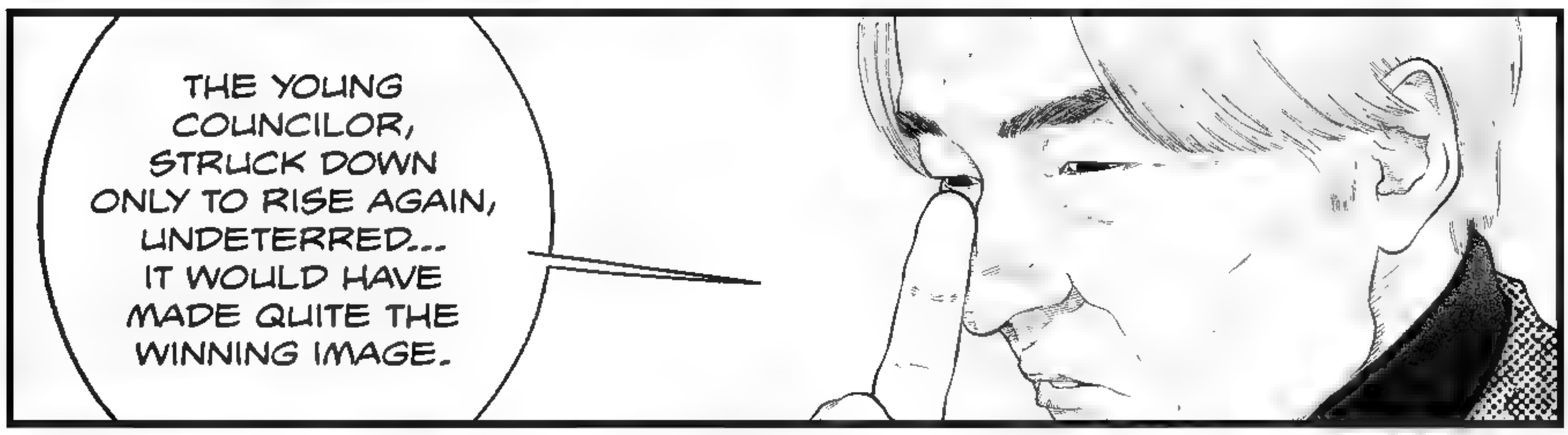
THE WAY XUANWU'S PEOPLE TALK, YOU'D THINK OSAKI WERE THEIRS TO DO WITH AS THEY PLEASE.

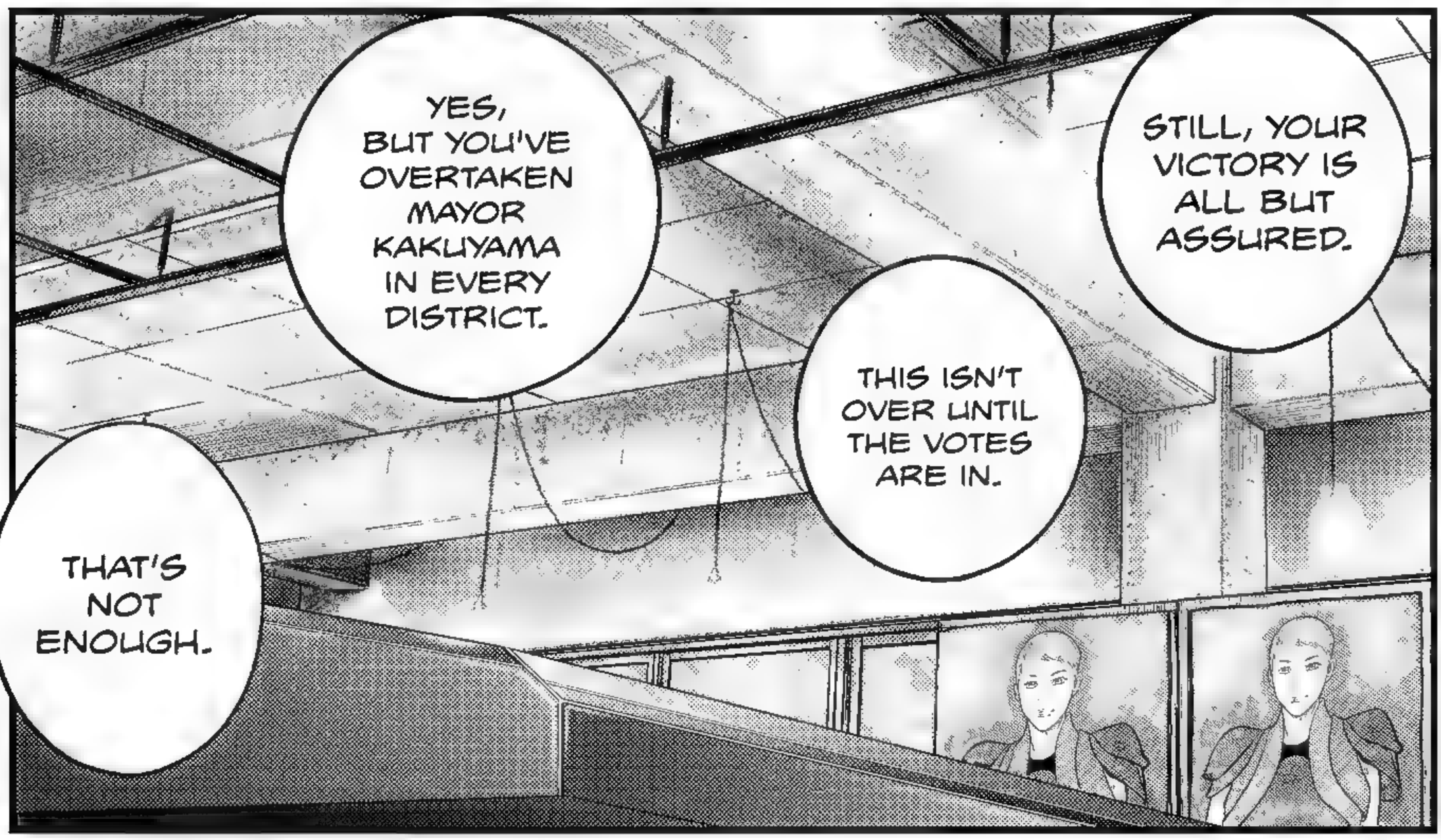

11.9
OSAKI HEAVY INDUSTRIES
49.2
XUANWU INSTRUMENT
KUROSE INDUSTRIES
DAINIPPON TECHNICAL RESEARCH
CROSS PROSTHETICS
WEST JAPAN MACHINERY
JEAK DODGER
MITSUI FUNDING PARTNERS
OTHER
HM... MAKE THAT FORTY-NINE PERCENT.
NOT SURPRISING. THEY NOW HOLD A FORTY-EIGHT-PERCENT STAKE IN THE COMPANY...


WHAT A NIGHT-MARE...
THANKS TO YESTERDAY'S SCREWUP, THE WHOLE PLAN'S GONE OFF THE RAILS.

...OR OUR SECURITY TEAM A BIT TOO CAPABLE.

MY SCRIPT MAY HAVE BEEN A BIT UNDER-COOKED...


THE YOUNG COUNCILOR, STRUCK DOWN ONLY TO RISE AGAIN, UNDETERRED... IT WOULD HAVE MADE QUITE THE WINNING IMAGE.

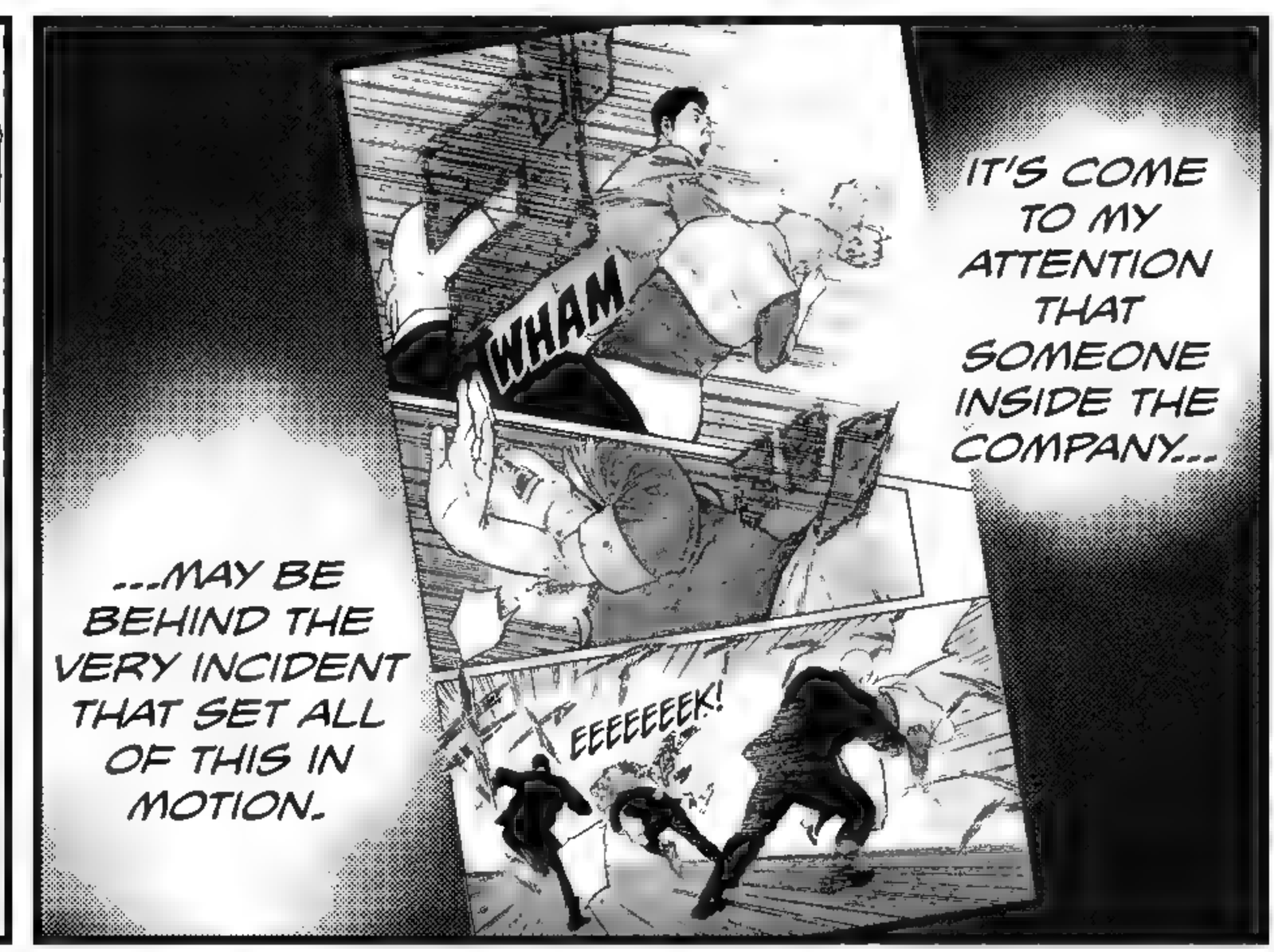

YES, BUT YOU'VE OVERTAKEN MAYOR KAKUYAMA IN EVERY DISTRICT.
STILL, YOUR VICTORY IS ALL BUT ASSURED.
THIS ISN'T OVER UNTIL THE VOTES ARE IN.
THAT'S NOT ENOUGH.

ONCE THE OSAKI ELITES SEE THE INFLUENCE I WIELD...
THE FACE OF NEW PORT IS THE FACE OF THE NATION.
...THEY'LL BE TAKING THEIR ORDERS FROM ME.
PROMISING REVOLUTION IN HUMAN EVOLUTION.
TO SHINRA MIKOMOTO
PROMISIN
IN HUMA
SHINRA

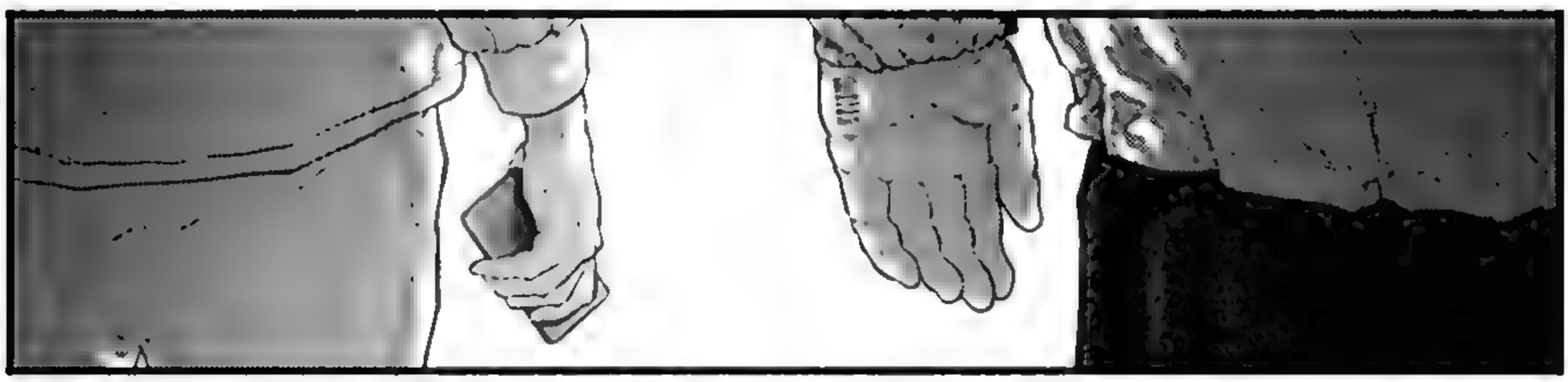
I WANT THIS VICTORY TO BE ABSOLUTE.

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
...FOR YOU TO SEVER TIES WITH OSAKI.
ACTUALLY, I WONDER IF IT MIGHT BE BEST...

ONE OF OURS?
WHO?! DO WE HAVE A NAME?!


WHAM
EEEEEEEK!
IT'S COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT SOMEONE INSIDE THE COMPANY...
...MAY BE BEHIND THE VERY INCIDENT THAT SET ALL OF THIS IN MOTION.

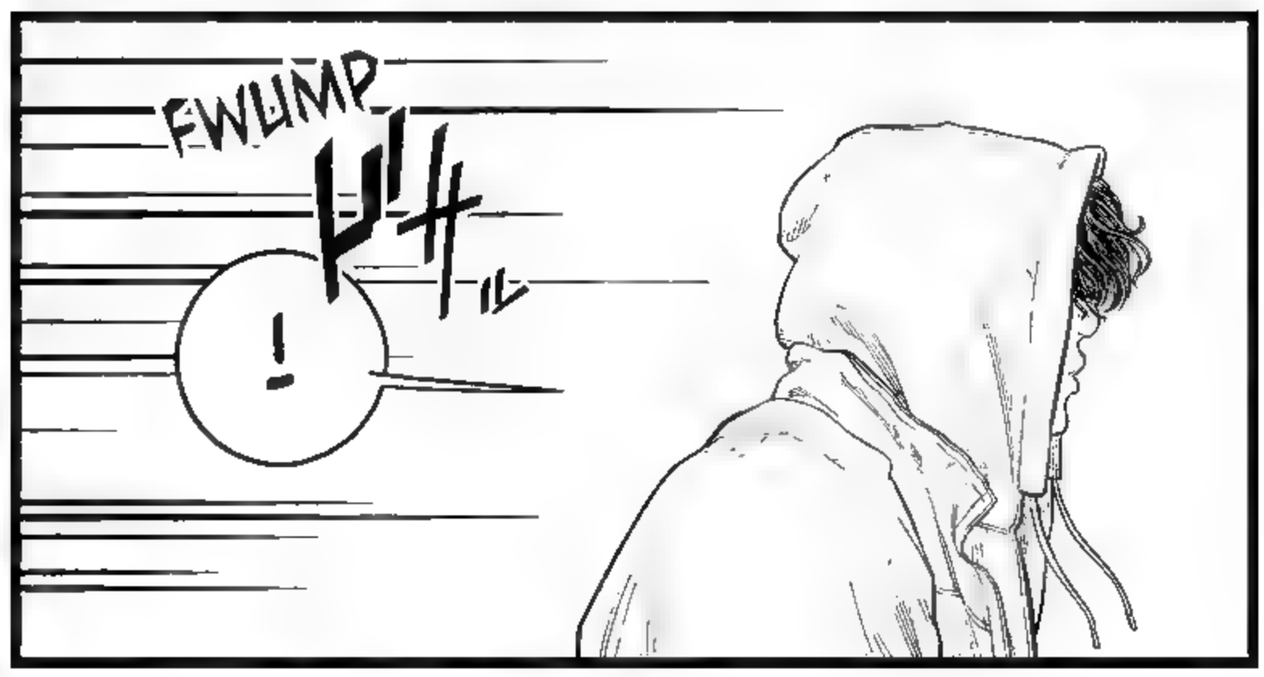
SHOH HASHIKAMI.



New Port City Council Member
SHINRA MIKOMOTO
Promising Revolution
and Candidate for Mayor
in Human Evolution
17F Campaign Office
Official Website

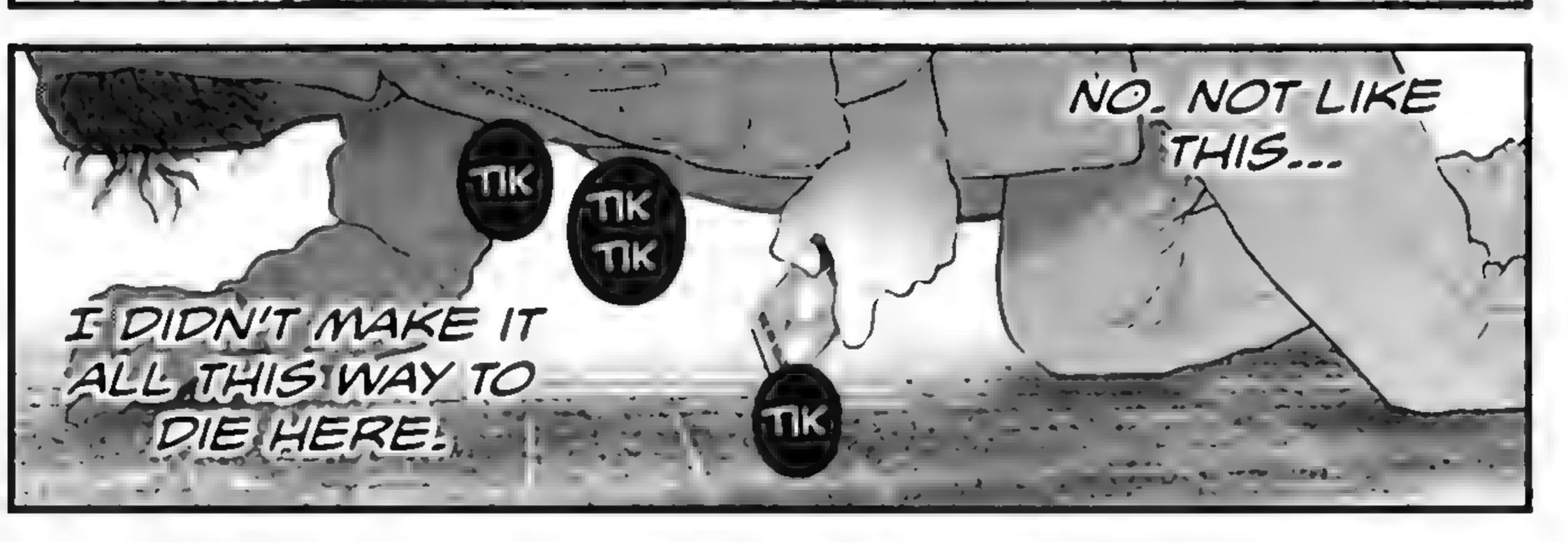
FSH
FSH
WHIRL

LET'S DO THIS.
OFFICE FLOOR ACCESS

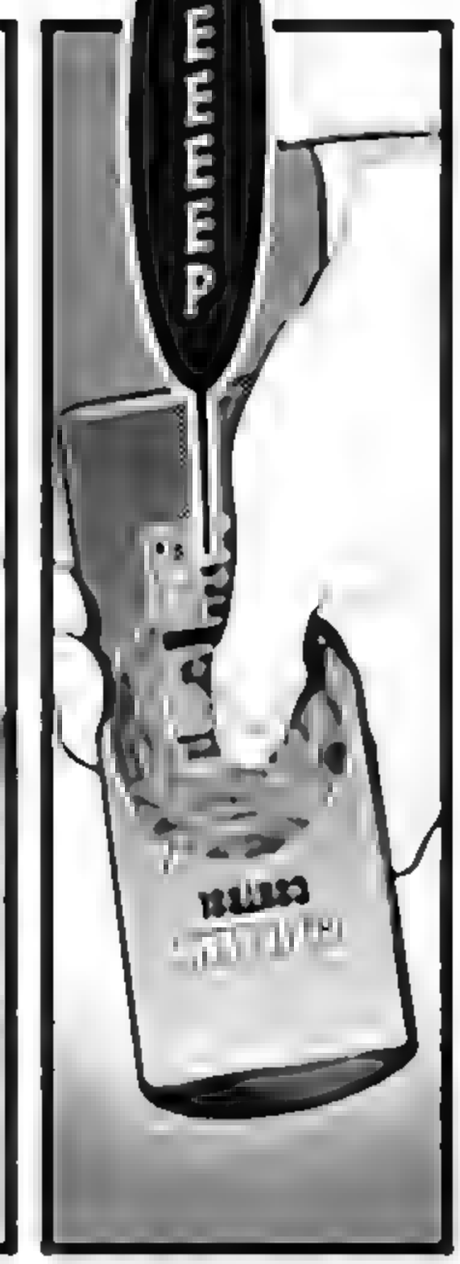

FWUMP
!

HUH?!
WHACK
?!

THMP
DUMB MOVE, KID.
SHW WWM
WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT YOU'D SHOW UP IN BROAD DAYLIGHT...
HERE'S YOUR ONE-WAY TICKET, COMPLIMENTS OF MR. OTOMO.
BE SURE TO GIVE YOUR FATHER HIS REGARDS.

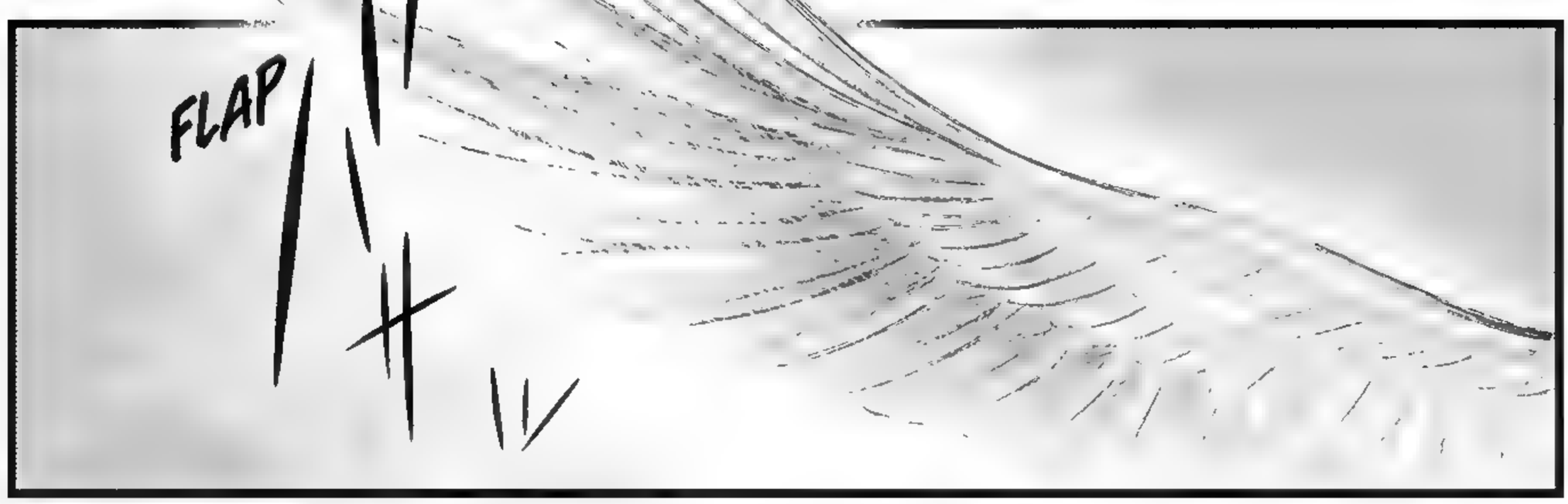

TIK
TIK TIK
TIK
NO. NOT LIKE THIS...
I DIDN'T MAKE IT ALL THIS WAY TO DIE HERE!

NICE TRY.

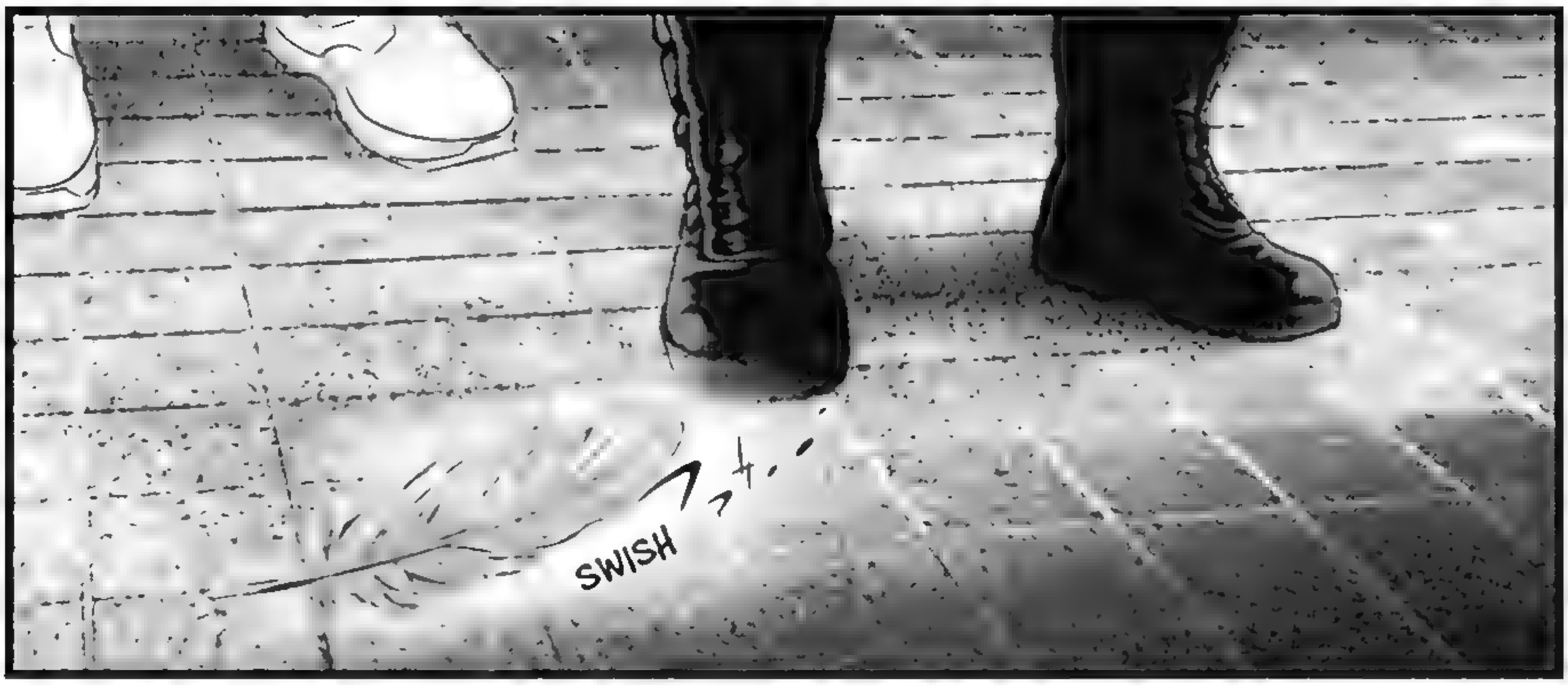

BEEEEEP

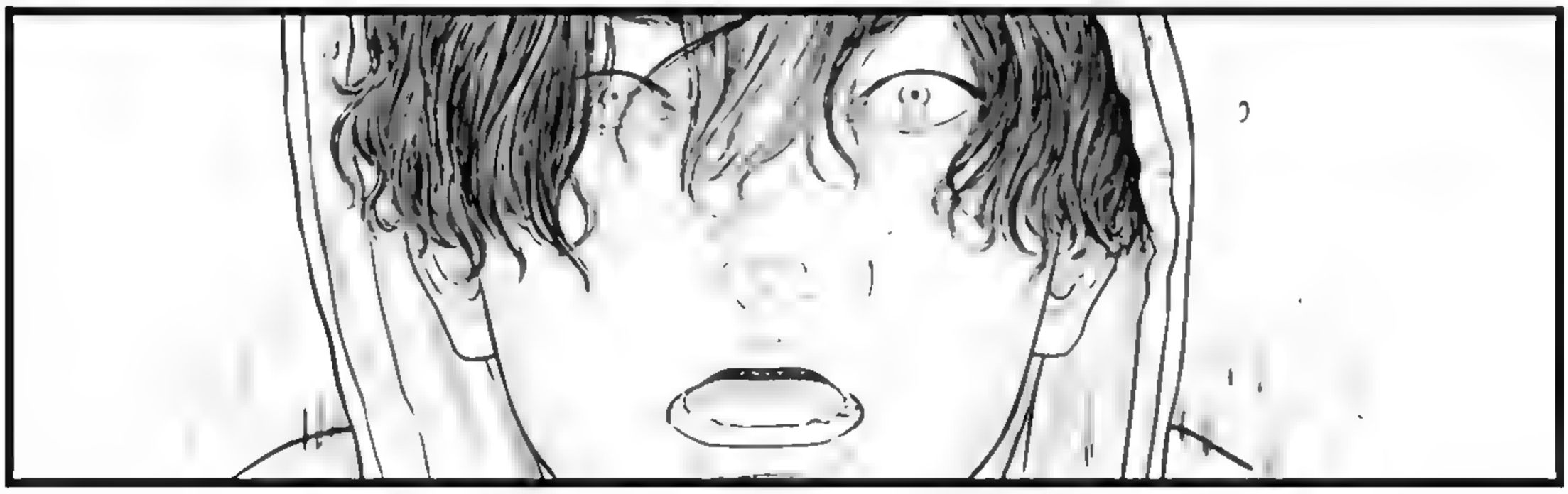
SAY GOODBYE, SHOH HASHIKAMI.
BUT THAT TRICK WON'T WORK ANYMORE.

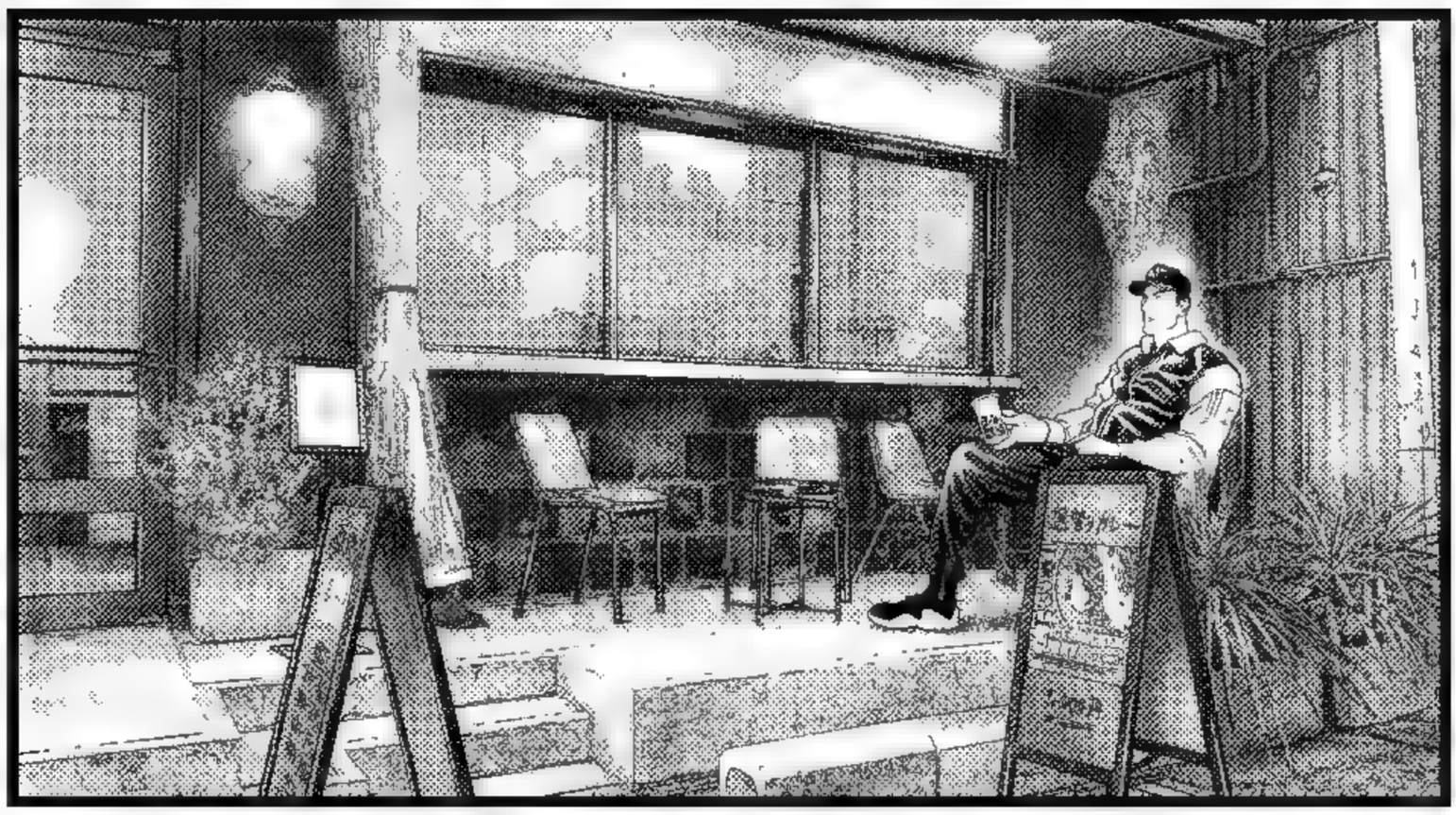
DAD... I'M SORRY.

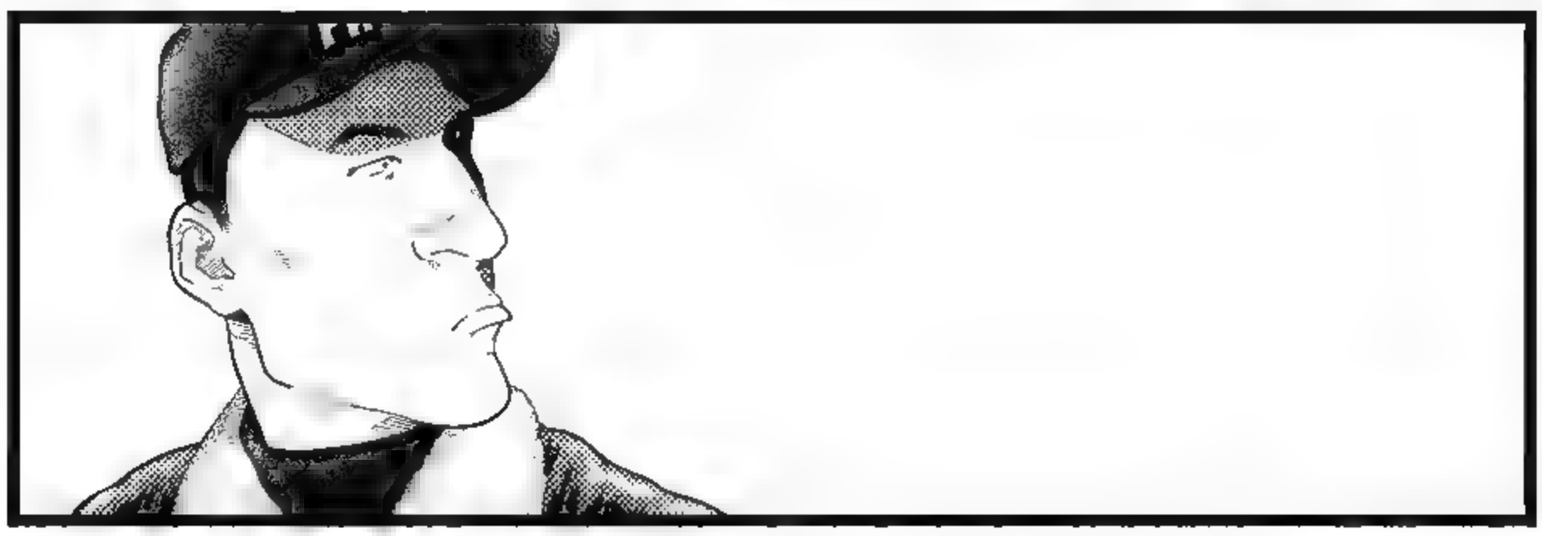

FLAP

?!

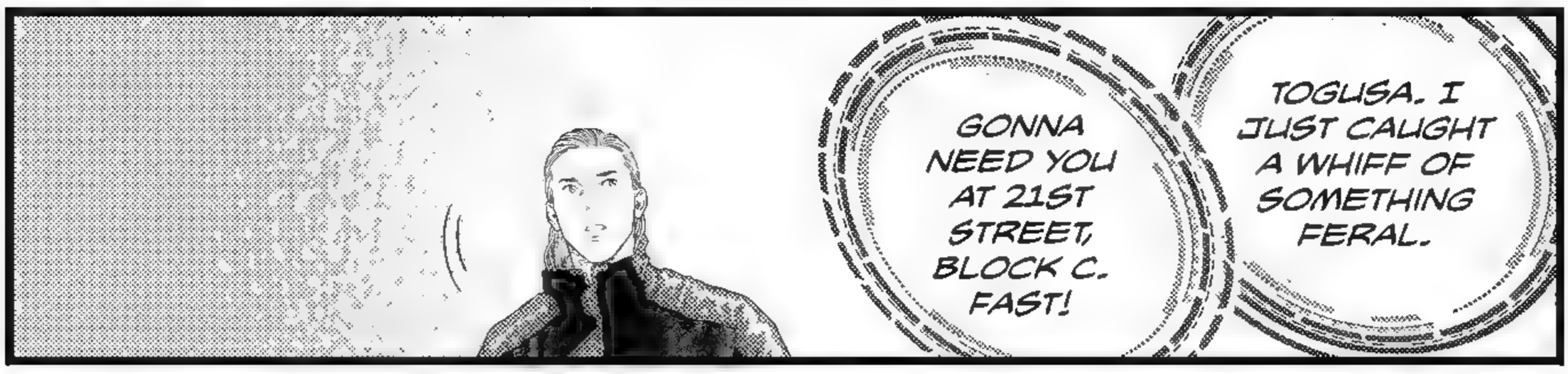

SWISH

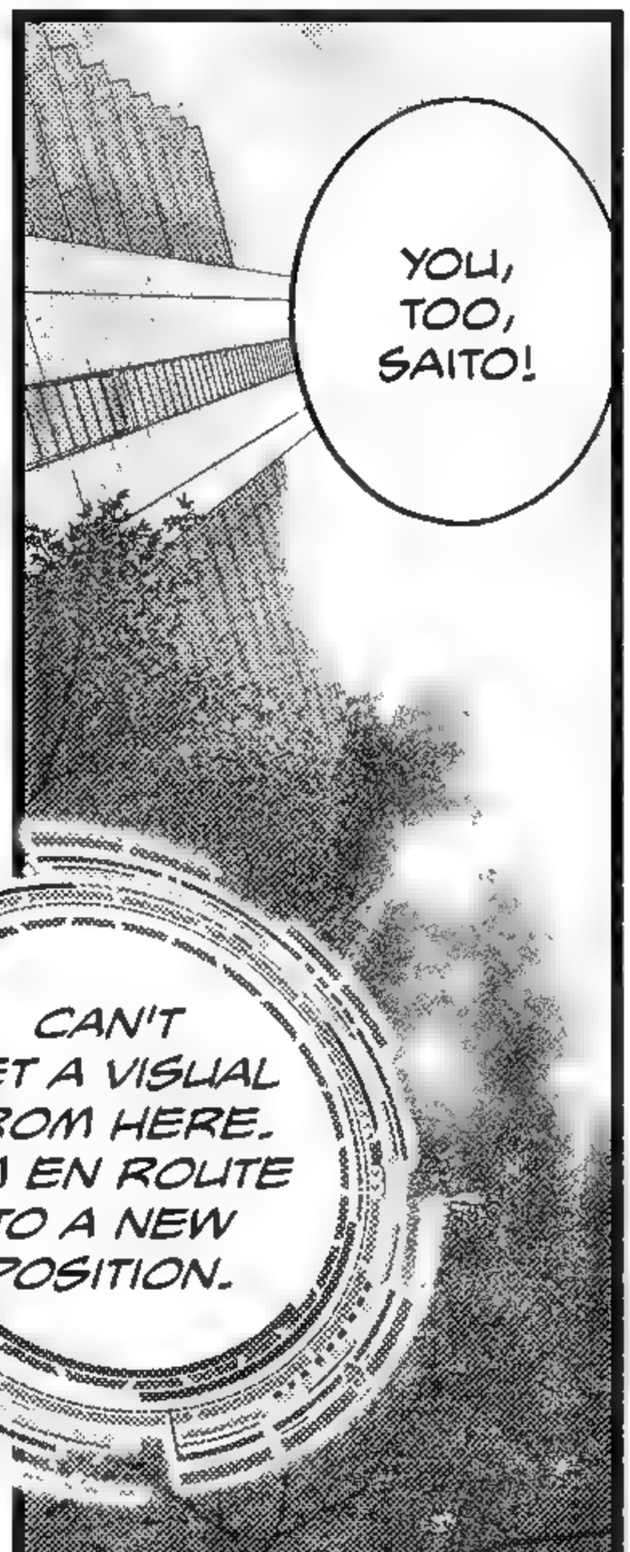






SNIFF

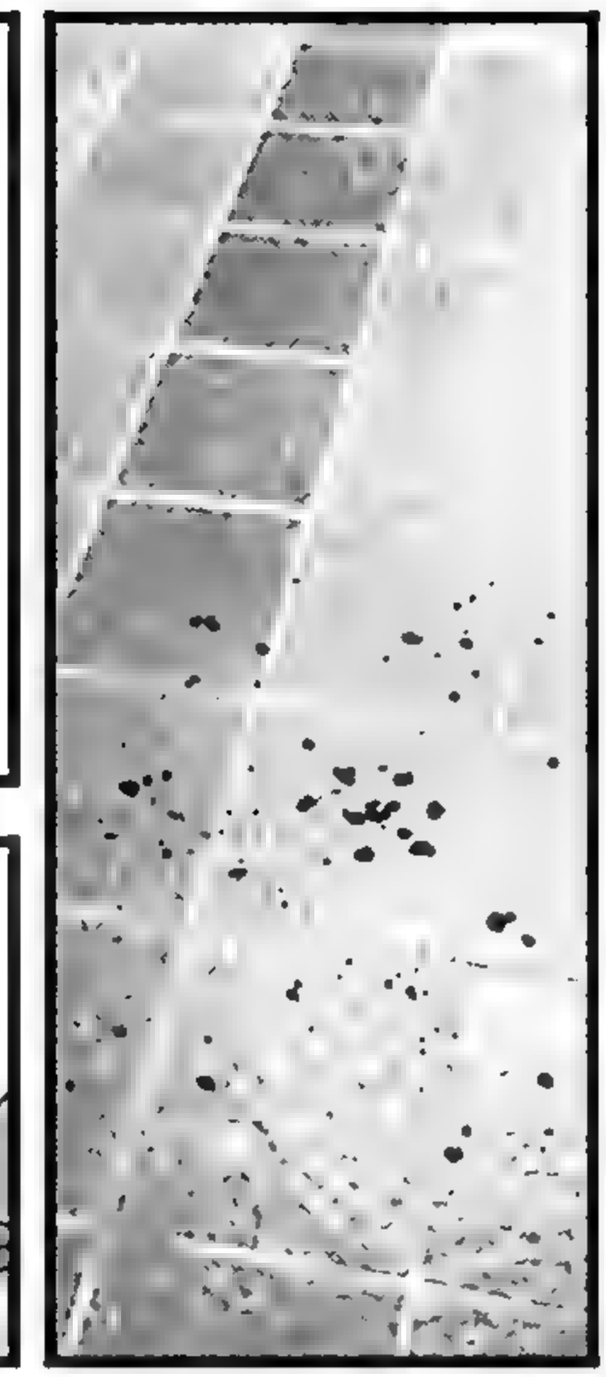

GONNA NEED YOU AT 21ST STREET, BLOCK C. FAST!
TOGUSA. I JUST CAUGHT A WHIFF OF SOMETHING FERAL.


YOU, TOO, SAITO!
CAN'T GET A VISUAL FROM HERE. I'M EN ROUTE TO A NEW POSITION.

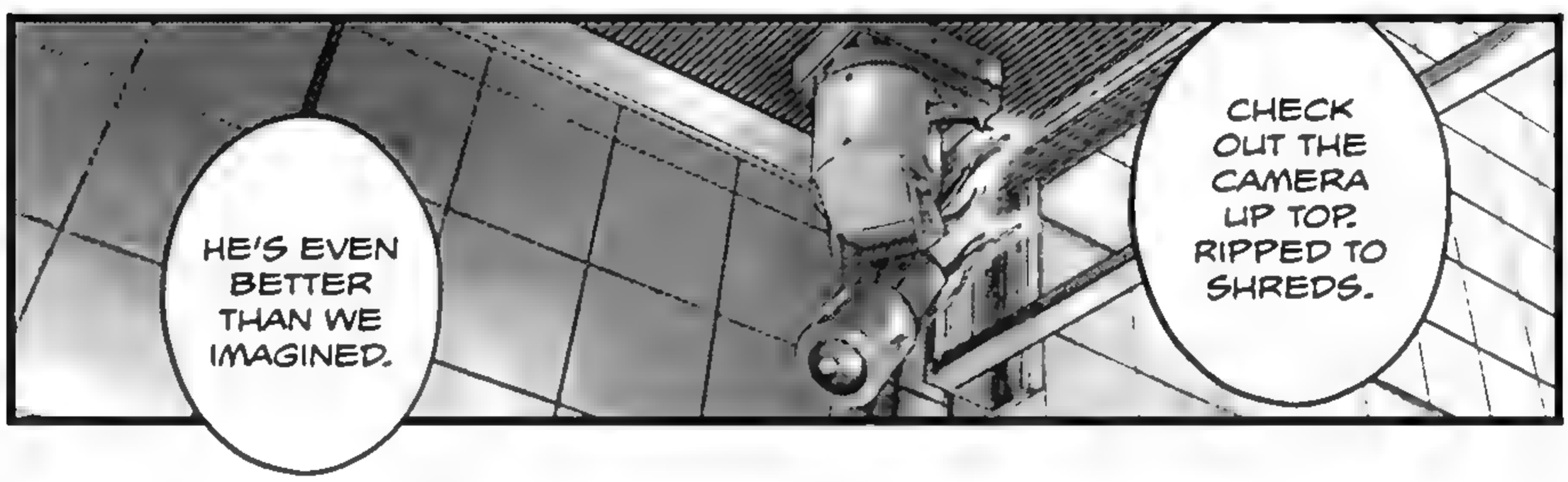
HEADS UP, PAZ!
THE COUNCILOR'S OFFICE?! THAT'S WHERE HE'S GONNA STRIKE?!
IF HE SHOWS, WE'LL GIVE HIM HELL.
DASH

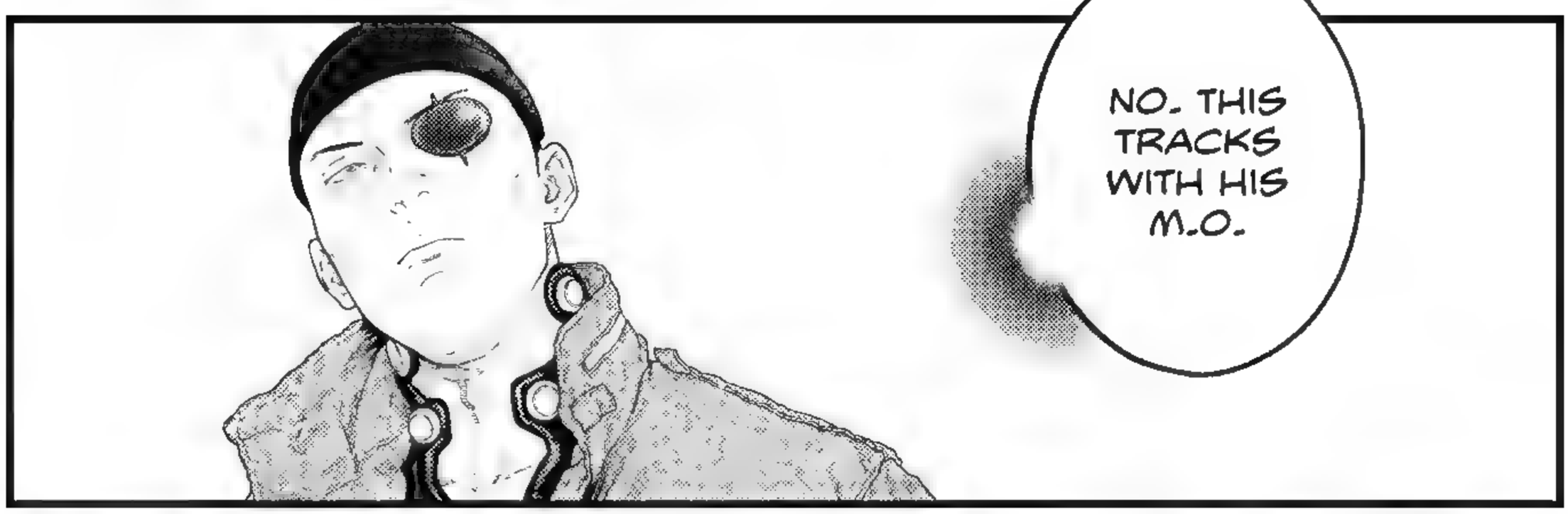
SNF SNF
AZUMA! REPORT!

WHATEVER WENT DOWN HERE, THERE'S HARDLY ANY TRACE LEFT.
IT'S THE WEIRDEST THING.



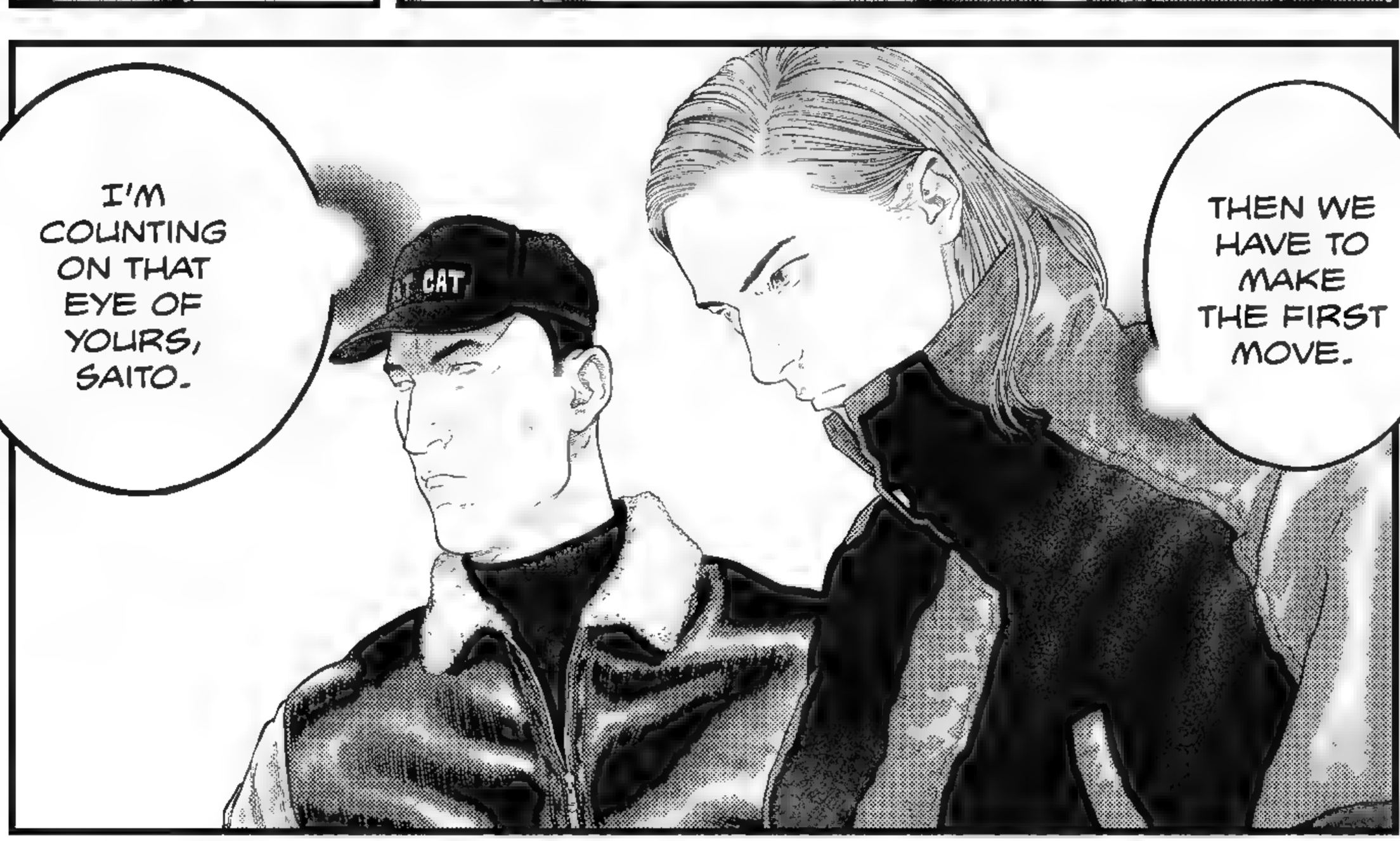
IF IT WAS, HE OUTDID HIMSELF.
DISAPPEARED LIKE FOOT-PRINTS IN A BLIZZARD.
THE WHITE BEAR?


HE'S EVEN BETTER THAN WE IMAGINED.
CHECK OUT THE CAMERA UP TOP. RIPPED TO SHREDS.


NO. THIS TRACKS WITH HIS M.O.

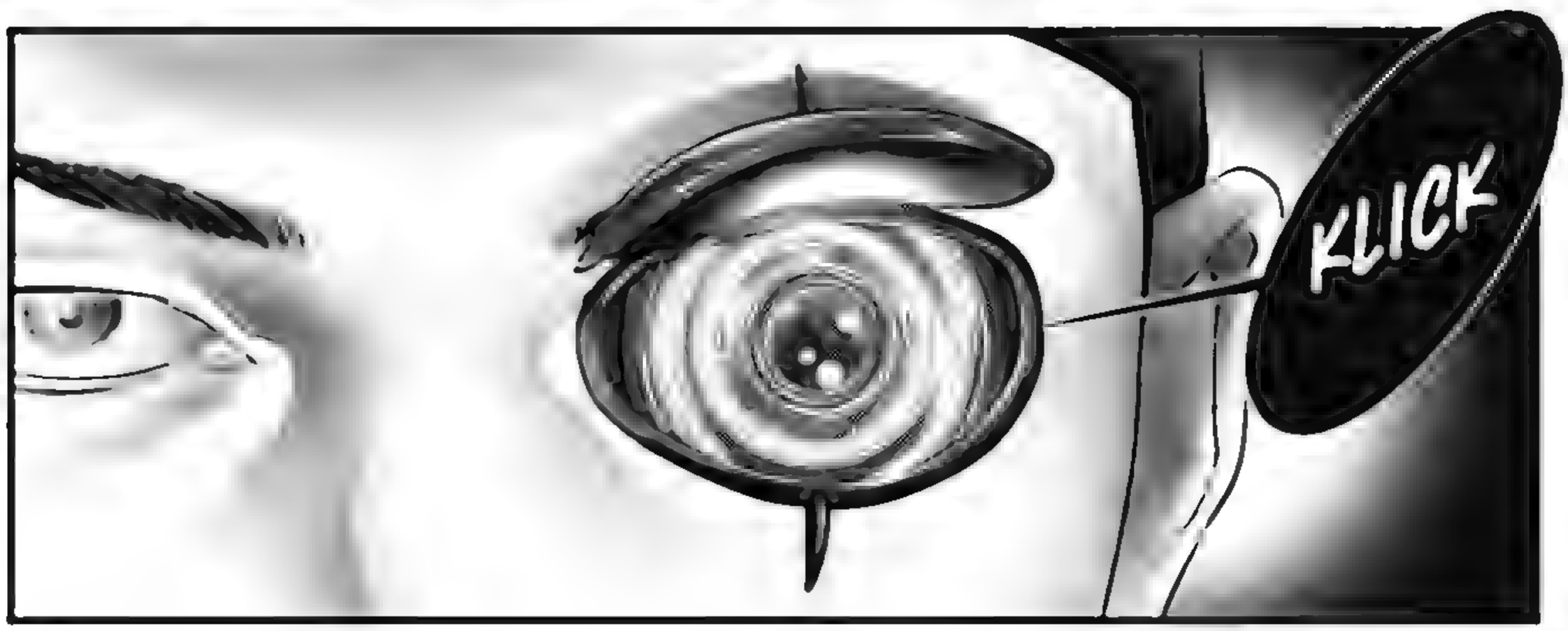
I'M GETTING EXCITED JUST THINKING ABOUT IT.

HE'LL STAY MOBILE, MOVE FROM PLACE TO PLACE...
TO HIM, THE CITY'S UNCHARTED TERRITORY.
'COURSE, HE'LL TAKE CARE NOT TO TRIP ANY SURVEIL-LANCE.
HE NEEDS TO SCOUT IT OUT.


I'M COUNTING ON THAT EYE OF YOURS, SAITO.
CAT
THEN WE HAVE TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE.

THIS TIME, THE FIGHT'S IN NEW PORT.

MY TURF. MY RULES.



THE GHOST IN THE SHELL

攻殻機動隊

THE HUMAN ALGORITHM

18

GHOST WHISPERS

HMPH. SO THAT'S THE SUNKEN TREASURE.

A WHOLE BOATLOAD OF RARE-EARTH METALS TRANSPORTED IN SECRET DURING THE WAR.

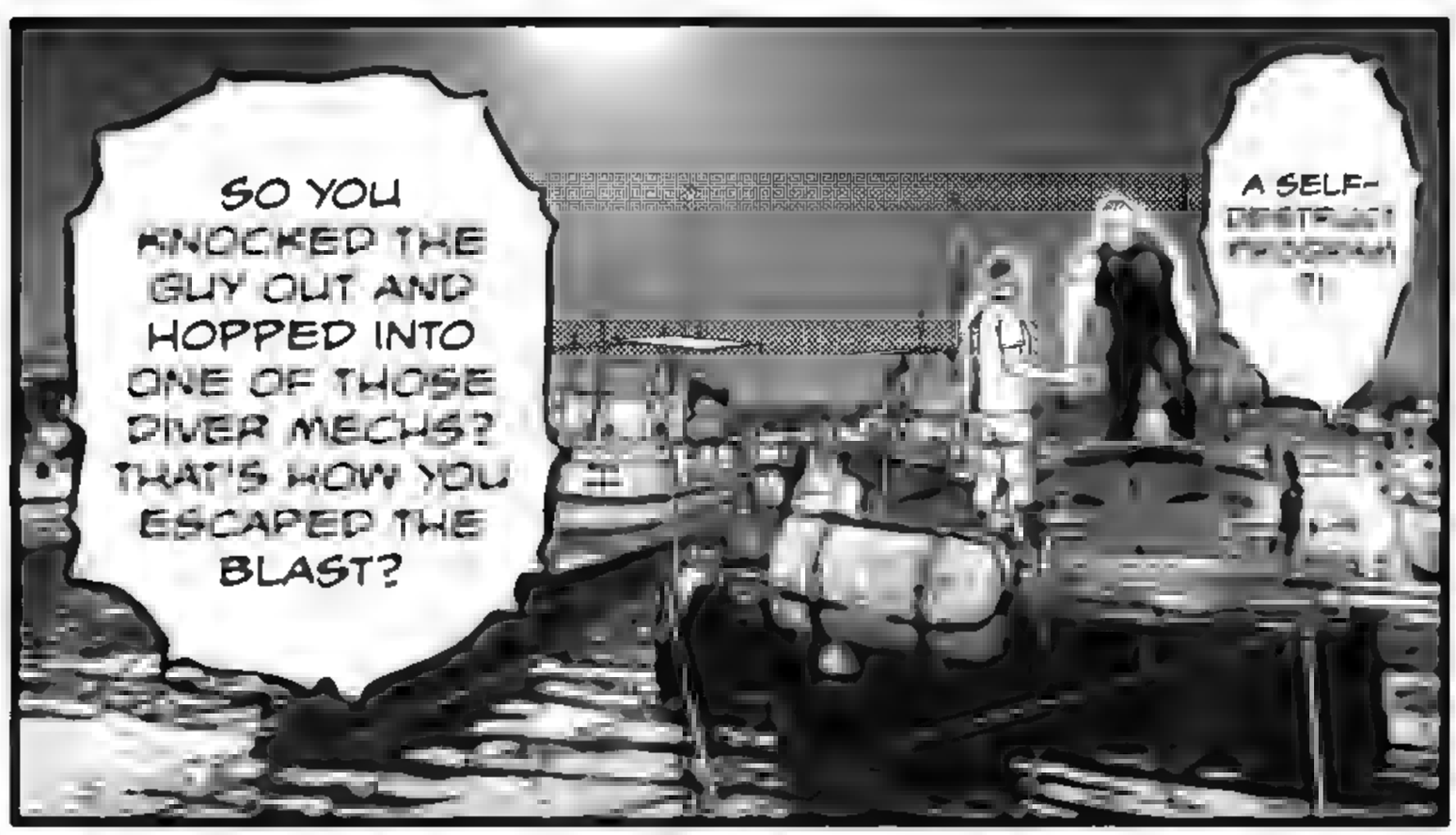
?!

GLUP

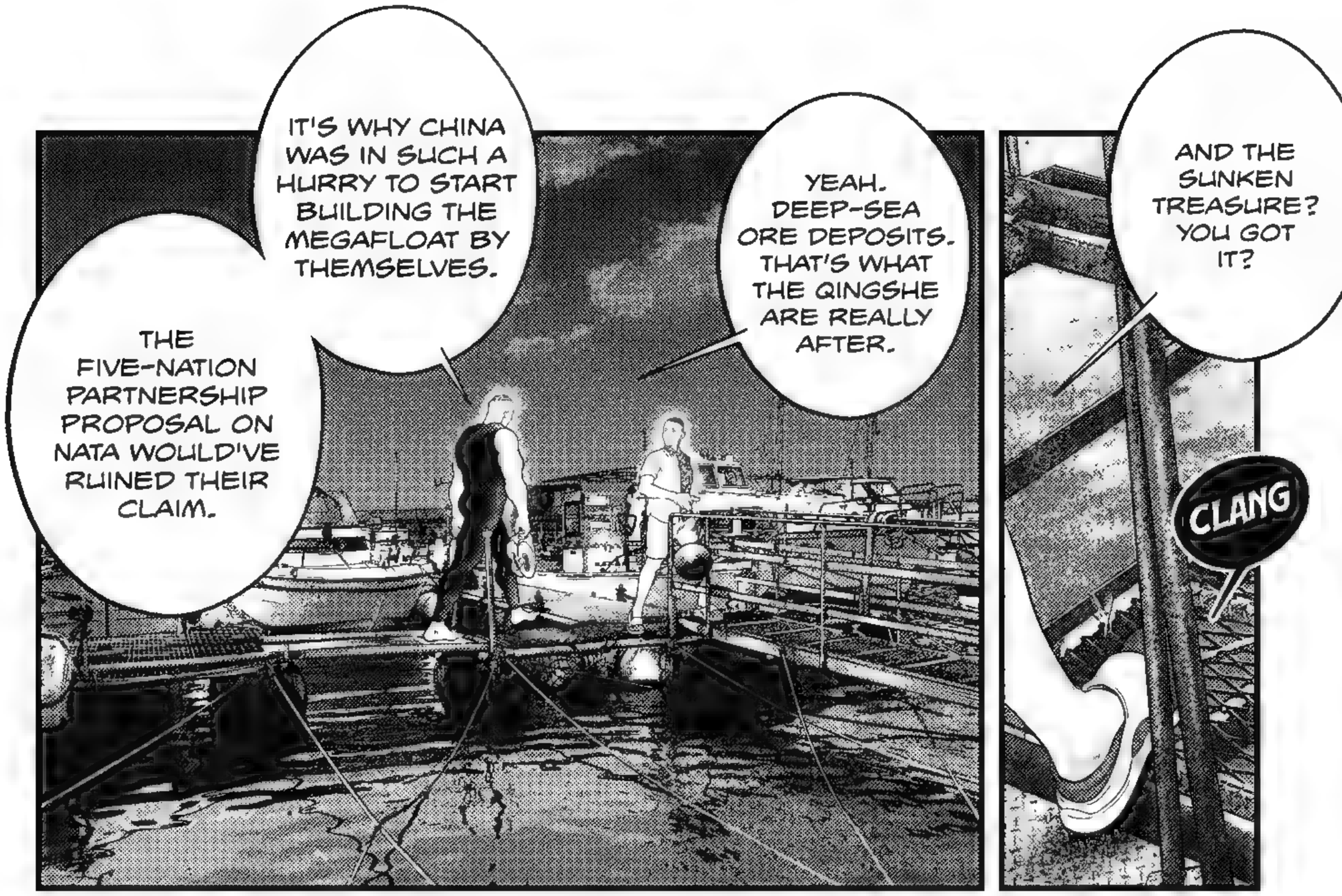
LOOKS LIKE I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE PEEPING INTO KENBISHI'S BOOKS.

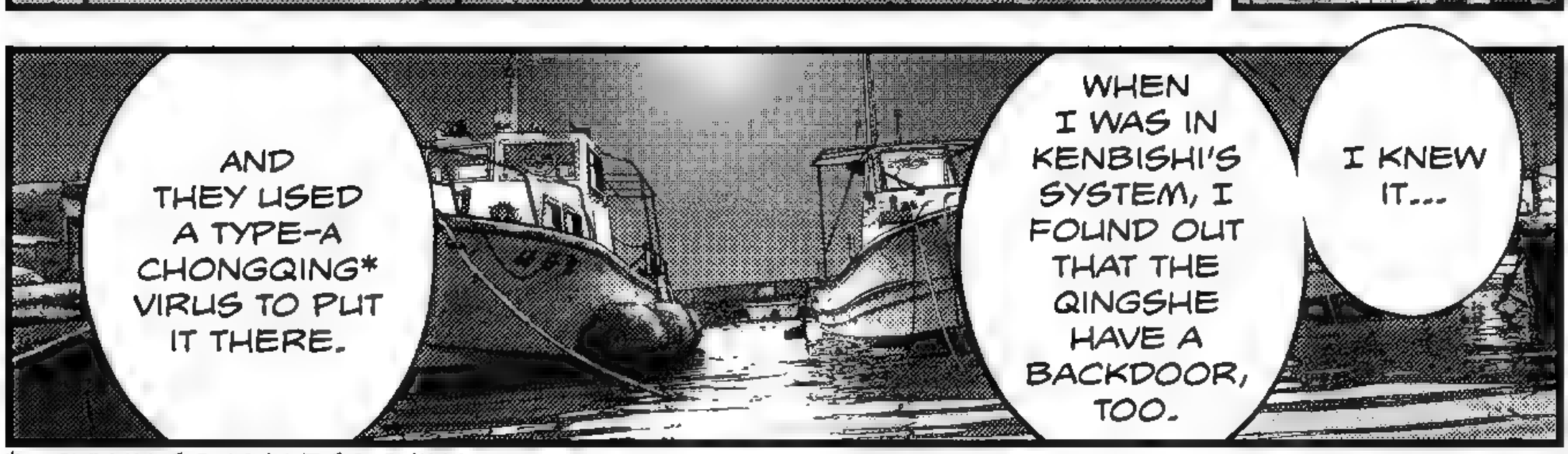
HANG ON...

BOB...
AH!
HOW WAS THE DRAGON PALACE?

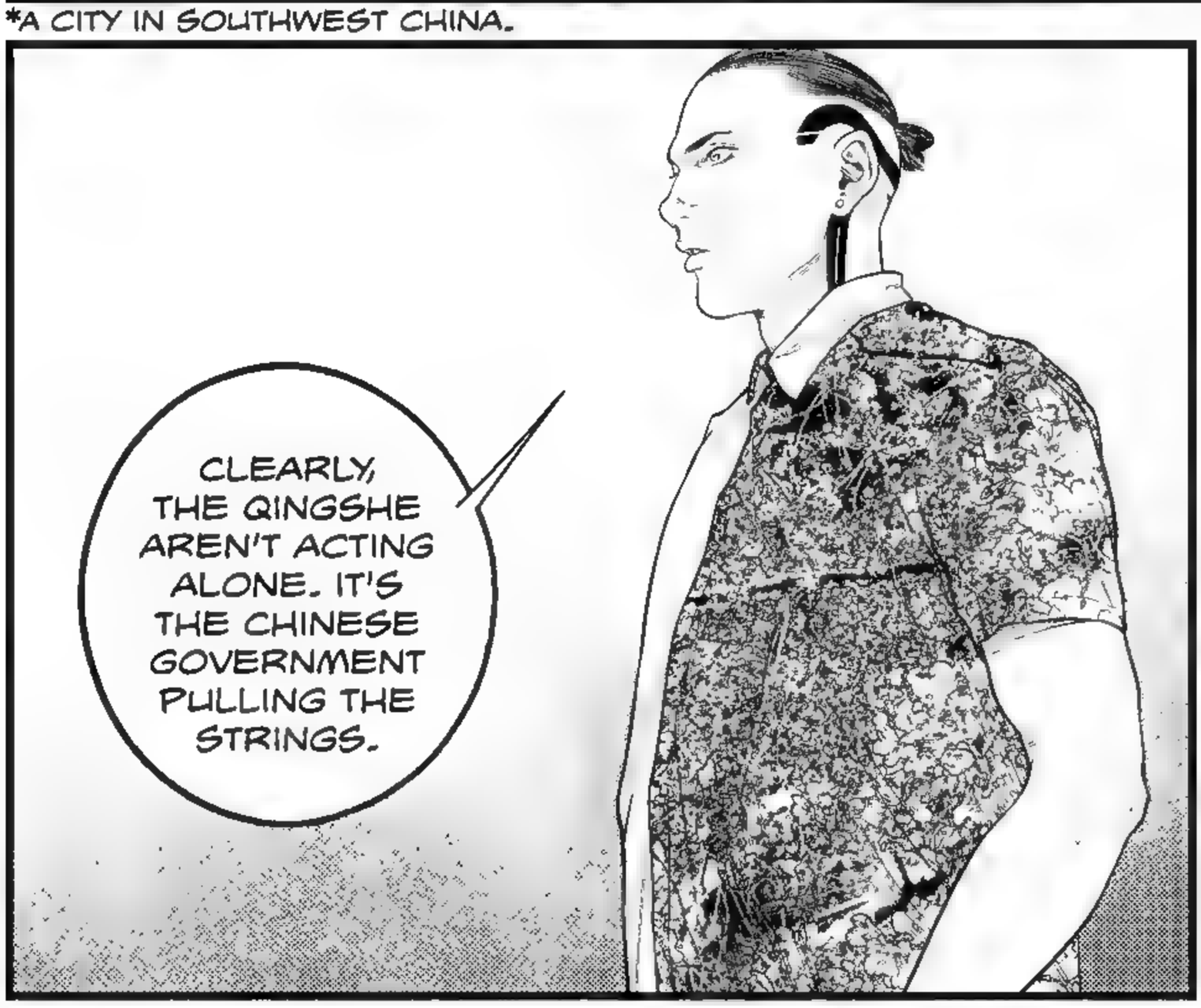

SO YOU KNOCKED THE GUY OUT AND HOPPED INTO ONE OF THOSE DIVER MECHS? THAT'S HOW YOU ESCAPED THE BLAST?
A SELF-

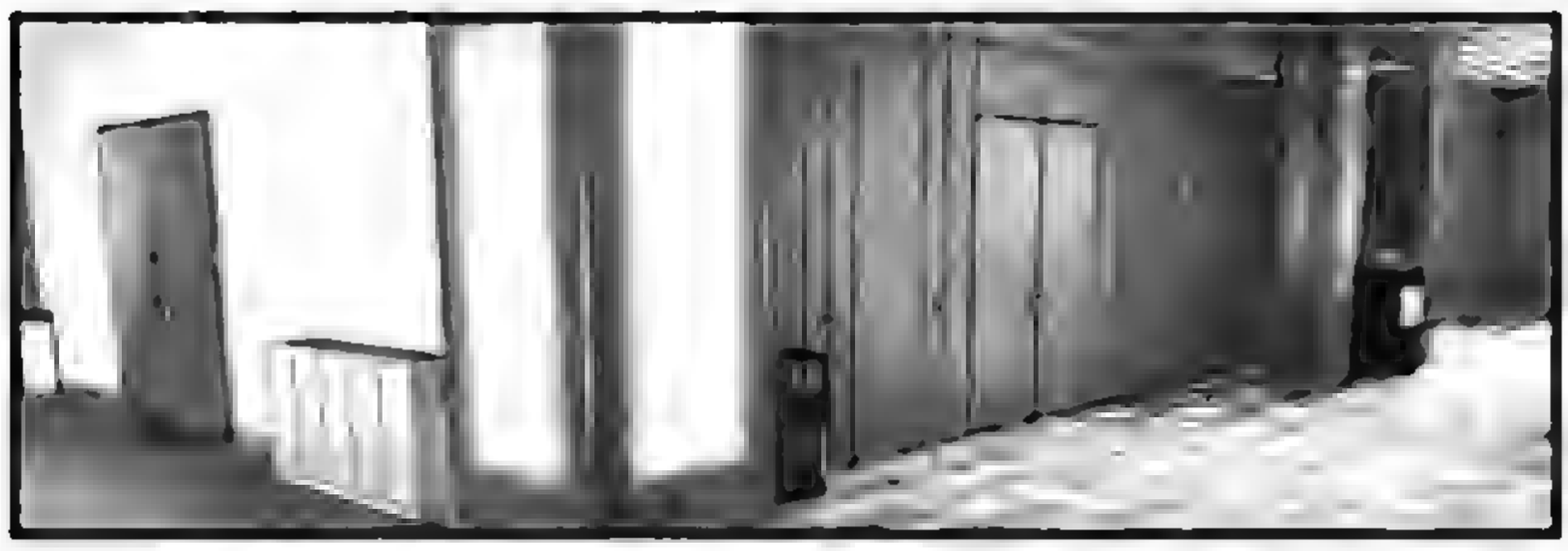
NOT BEFORE GETTING MY FACE GRILLED LIKE A PIECE OF STEAK.
HATCH WAS SO BUSTED, IT WOULDN'T CLOSE RIGHT.





*A CITY IN SOUTHWEST CHINA.





Letter of Resignation

I'LL RETURN TO THE CHANNELING AGENCY AND START OVER WITH MY TRAINING.
OUR LAST MISSION MADE IT CLEAR THAT I'M ONLY GETTING IN THE WAY.

I'M NOT FIT TO SERVE. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO CONTRIBUTE TO SECTION 9.

I SEE.

SHF...
Letter Resigna
WELL, I DON'T BELIEVE IN CHASING AFTER SOMEONE IF THEY'RE SET ON LEAVING.

BWUH ?!
BUT I'M AFRAID SECTION 9 SEES THINGS QUITE DIFFERENTLY.
Letter of Designation
SHRRRP

AFTER ALL, YOU'RE PRIVY TO CLASS-A STATE SECRETS. WE'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING SURE THOSE LIPS OF YOURS STAY SEALED.
...
...
...OR BY DISAPPEARING SO COMPLETELY, WE'RE UNABLE TO TRACK YOU DOWN.
THE ONLY WAY OUT OF THIS JOB IS IN A COFFIN...
SHRP
SHRP

IT'S NEWS TO ME!
SHAKE
SHAKE
I THOUGHT ISUZU HAD EXPLAINED ALL THIS TO YOU...

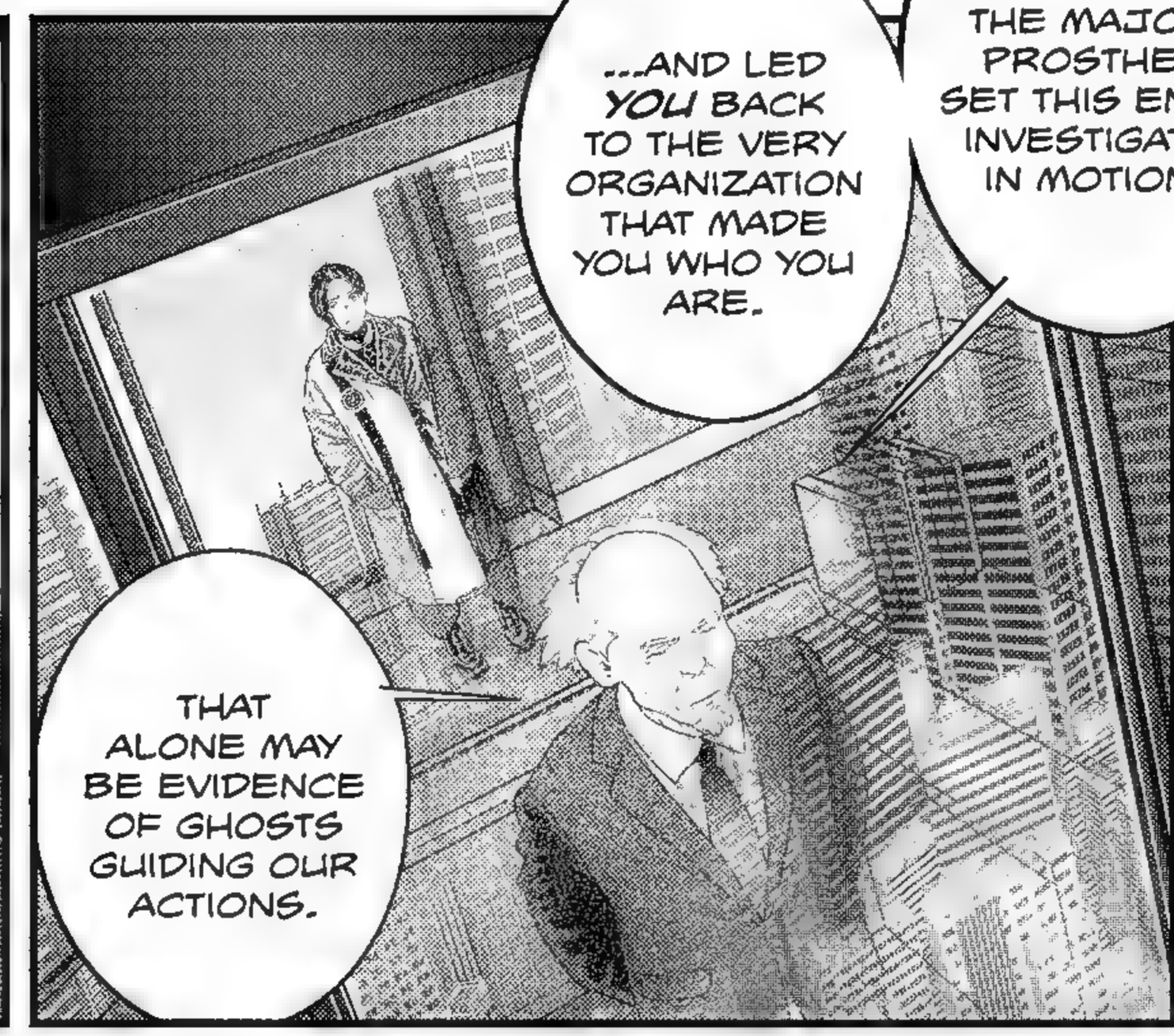
THE REASON I APPROVED YOUR TRANSFER FROM THE CHANNELING AGENCY, DESPITE YOUR LACK OF EXPERIENCE...

...YET IT CANNOT SHAKE ITS BELIEF IN AN INTANGIBLE GHOST WITHIN EACH OF US.

HUMANITY HAS MANAGED TO DIGITIZE EVERY ASPECT OF OUR WORLD...

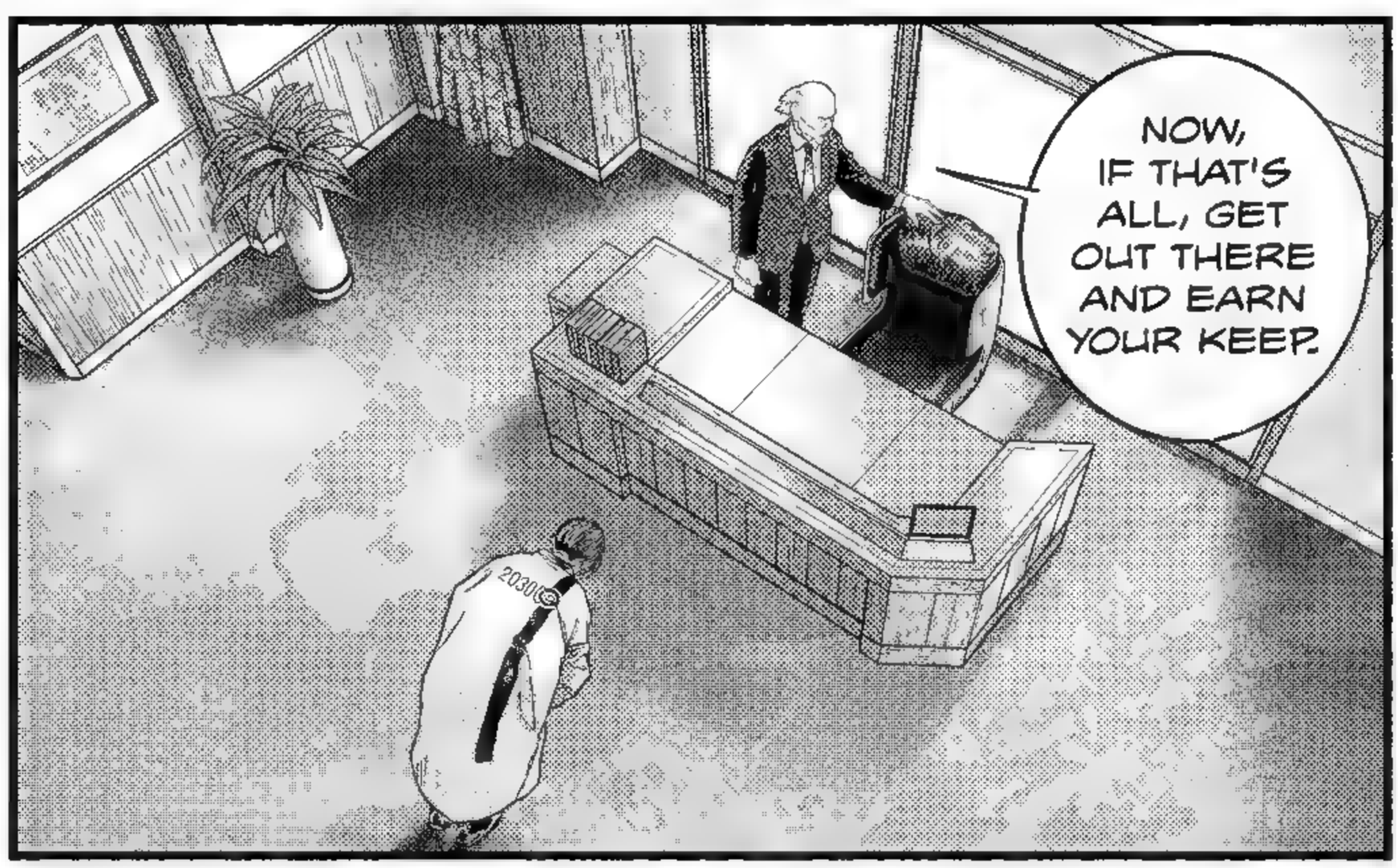
CREAK...

A FORMER OPERATIVE OF OURS ALWAYS LISTENED TO THE WHISPERS OF HER GHOST BEFORE PLOWING AHEAD.


...AND LED YOU BACK TO THE VERY ORGANIZATION THAT MADE YOU WHO YOU ARE.
OUR DISCOVERY OF THE MAJOR'S PROSTHETIC SET THIS ENTIRE INVESTIGATION IN MOTION...
THAT ALONE MAY BE EVIDENCE OF GHOSTS GUIDING OUR ACTIONS.

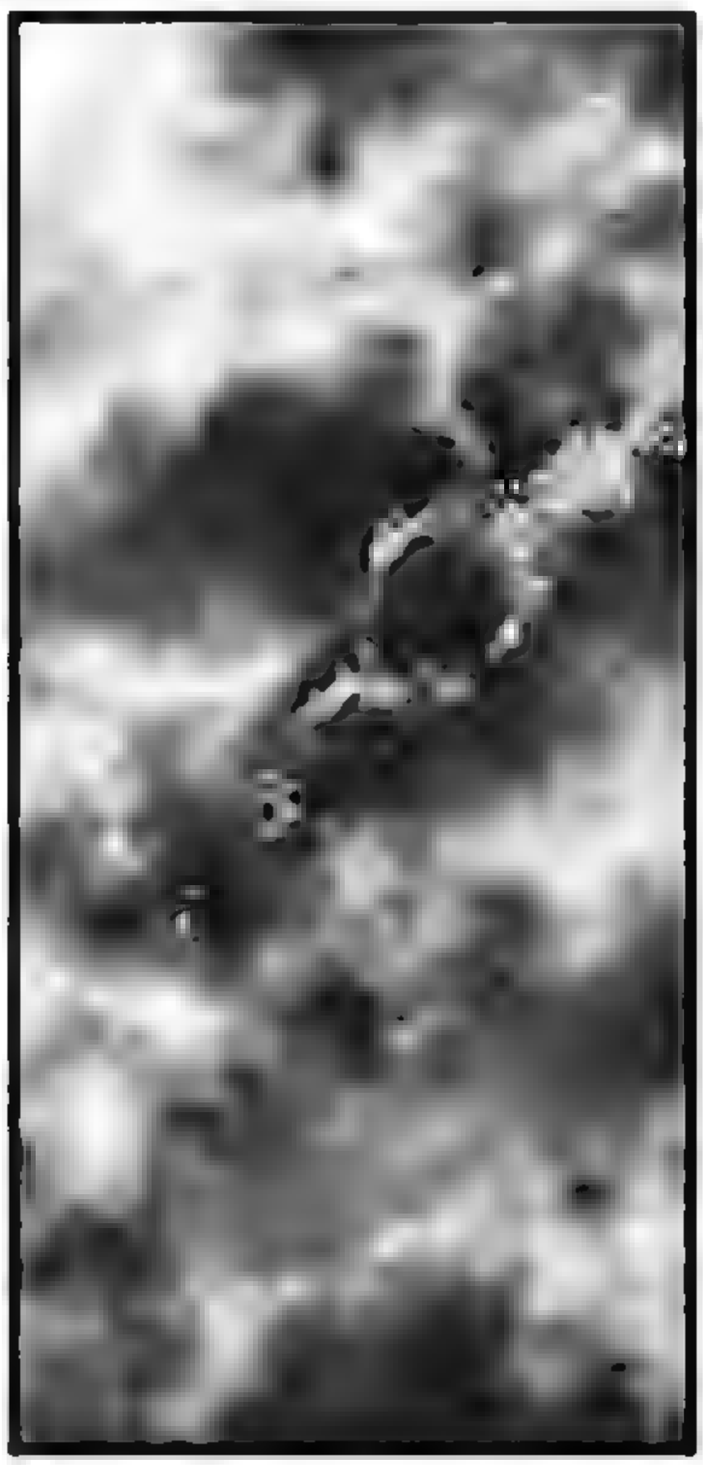
WHAT ABOUT YOURS? WHAT DOES IT WHISPER TO YOU?
MINE...?

MY GHOST...
...IS...

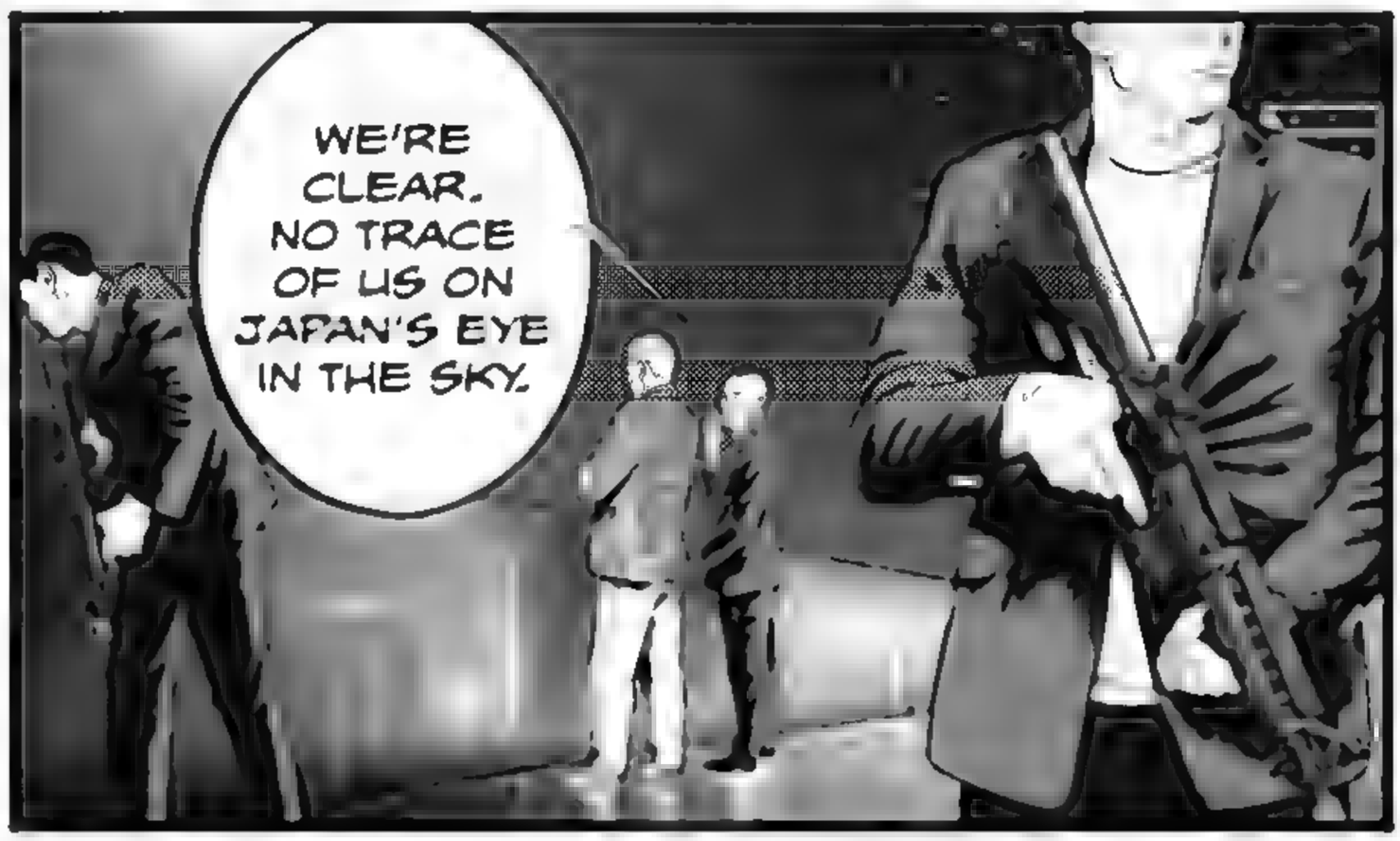

NOW, IF THAT'S ALL, GET OUT THERE AND EARN YOUR KEEP.
2030

SIR, YES, SIR! I WILL PERFORM MY DUTIES TO THE FULL EXTENT OF MY ABILITIES— BOTH PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL!

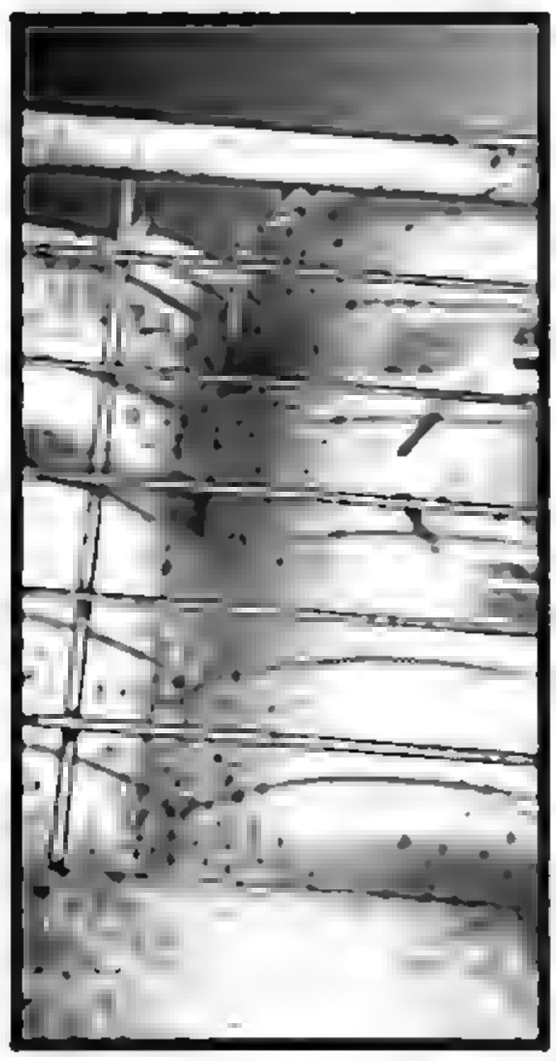
THANK YOU, SIR!



ALL RIGHT. GET THE STUFF ON BOARD.


WE'RE CLEAR. NO TRACE OF US ON JAPAN'S EYE IN THE SKY.

THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT?



I'M AFRAID WE HAD A SPOT OF TROUBLE WITH A LITTLE *RAT* FROM PUBLIC SECURITY.

BUT OF COURSE. YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT ANY POLITICAL FALLOUT.

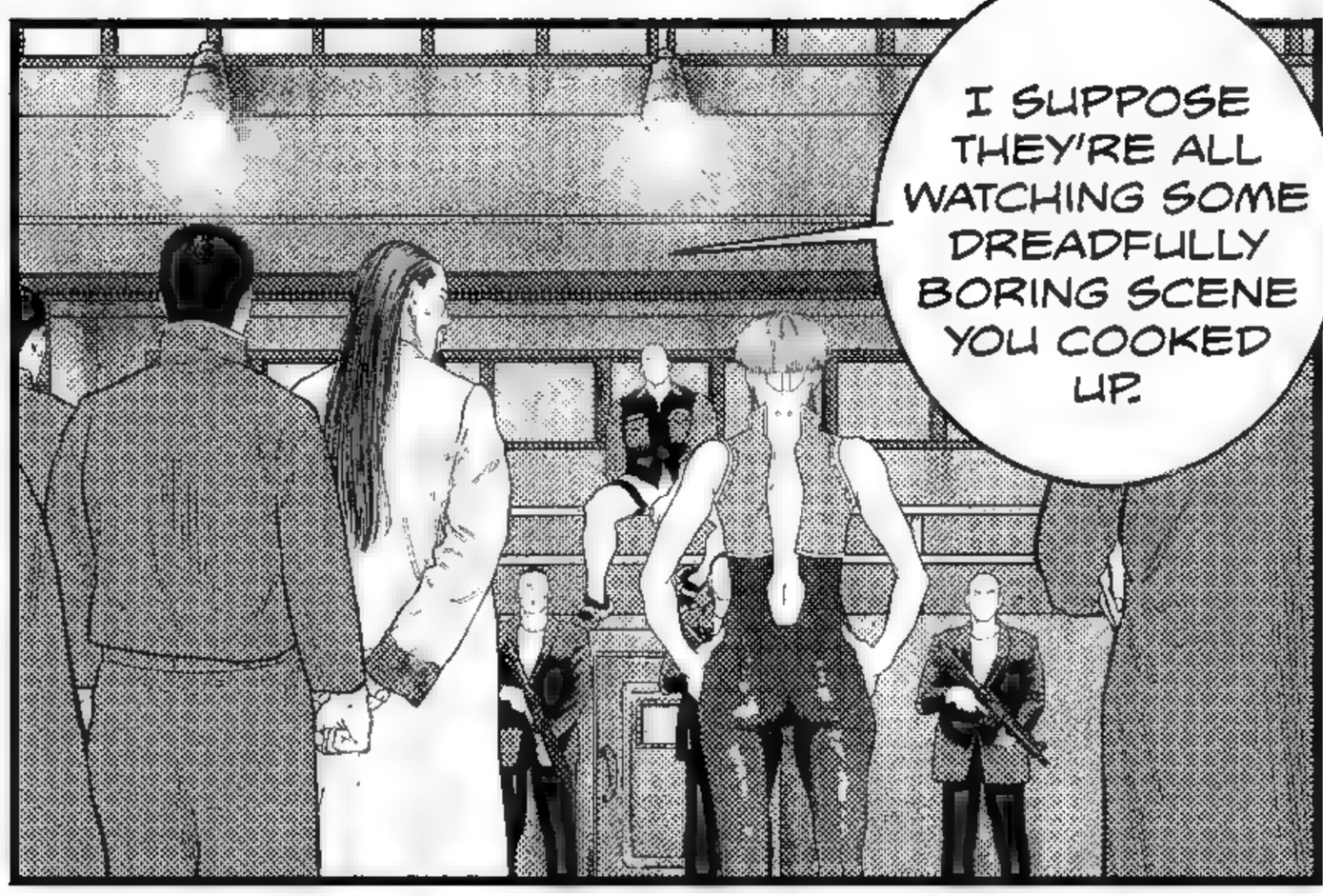
I TRUST YOU TOOK CARE OF IT.

BAM

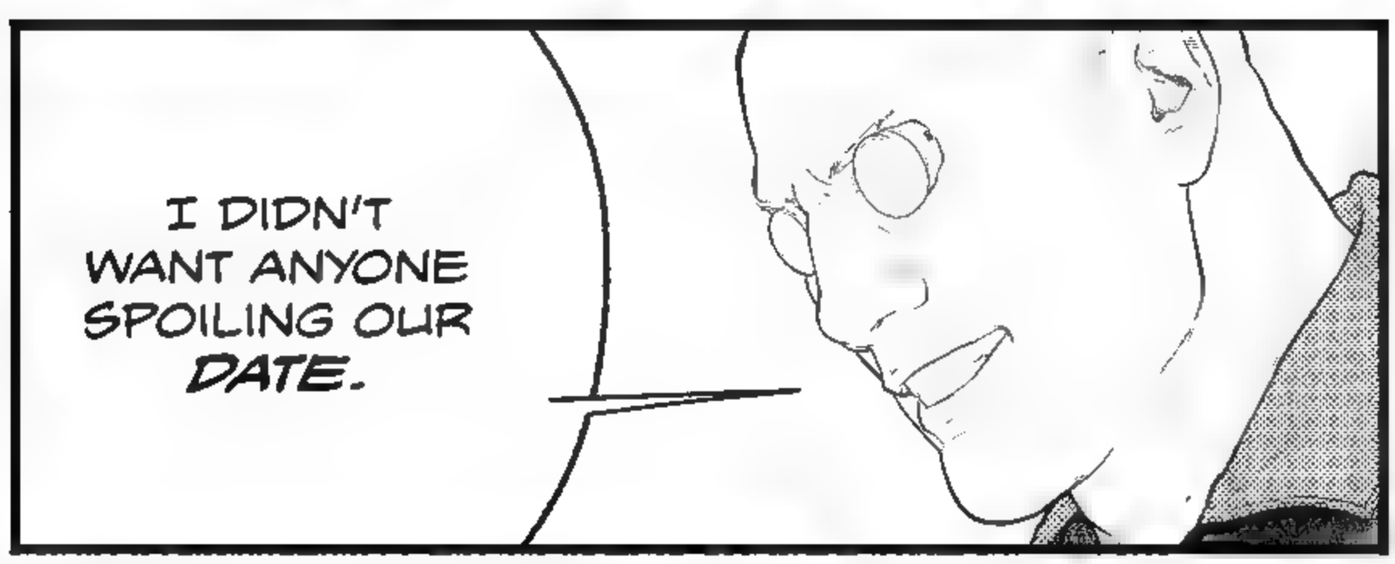
A GHOSTHACK...?

THE RAT! HE'S ALIVE?!

SQUEAK, SQUEAK, SHIT-HEAD.


I SUPPOSE THEY'RE ALL WATCHING SOME DREADFULLY BORING SCENE YOU COOKED UP.

I SEE. YOU WENT FOR THEIR EYES...
YOU'RE SHARPER THAN YOU APPEAR.


I DIDN'T WANT ANYONE SPOILING OUR DATE.

FWIP
?!

SO...
...YOU GONNA CLUE ME IN ABOUT THESE METALS YOU'RE AFTER? HOPIN' TO BUILD SOME KINDA NEXT-GEN PROSTHETIC?

WHY ENLIGHTEN A DEAD MAN?
APOLOGIES, BUT I HAVE A BUSINESS TRANSACTION TO CONCLUDE.
CLACK

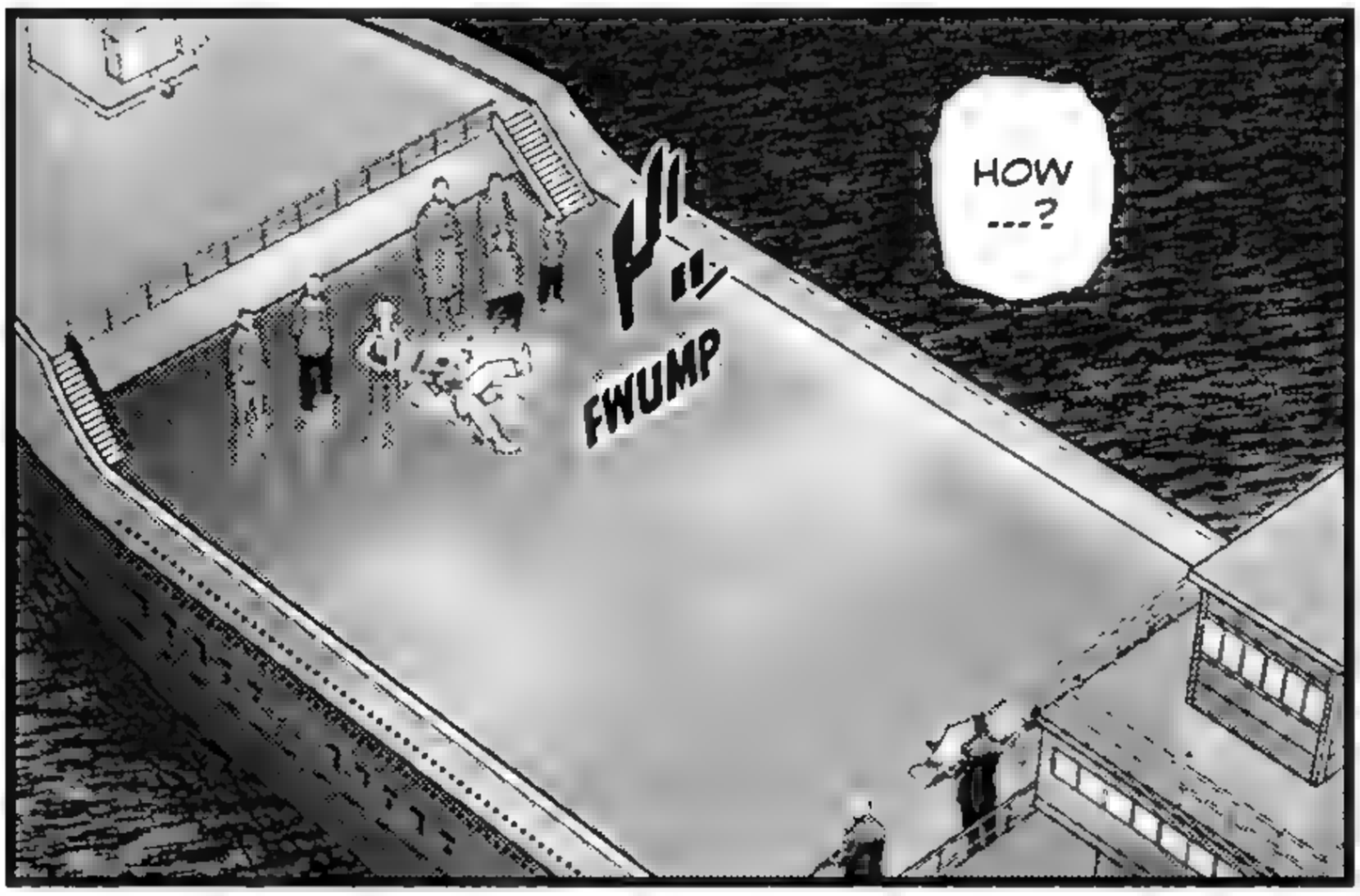
"OOPS."

"HE LUNGED AT ME. I *HAD* TO SHOOT HIM."

...

DO YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE *BULLETS* CAN—

REALLY, NOW...


HOW ...?
FWUMP

YOU BASTARD.

HERE'S SOME ENLIGHTEN-MENT FOR A DEAD MAN.
WHUMP

...BUT ALL TECH BECOMES OUTDATED SOONER OR LATER.
YOUR PROSTHETIC MIGHT HAVE THE FANCIEST CARBON NANOFIBERS MONEY CAN BUY...

HEY, NOW. DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA.
I DON'T PICK FIGHTS. THAT'S NOT MY STYLE.

AND OUR REMATCH? YOU'LL NEVER KNOW IF YOU COULD HAVE BESTED ME HAND TO HAND.

I WAGE WAR.

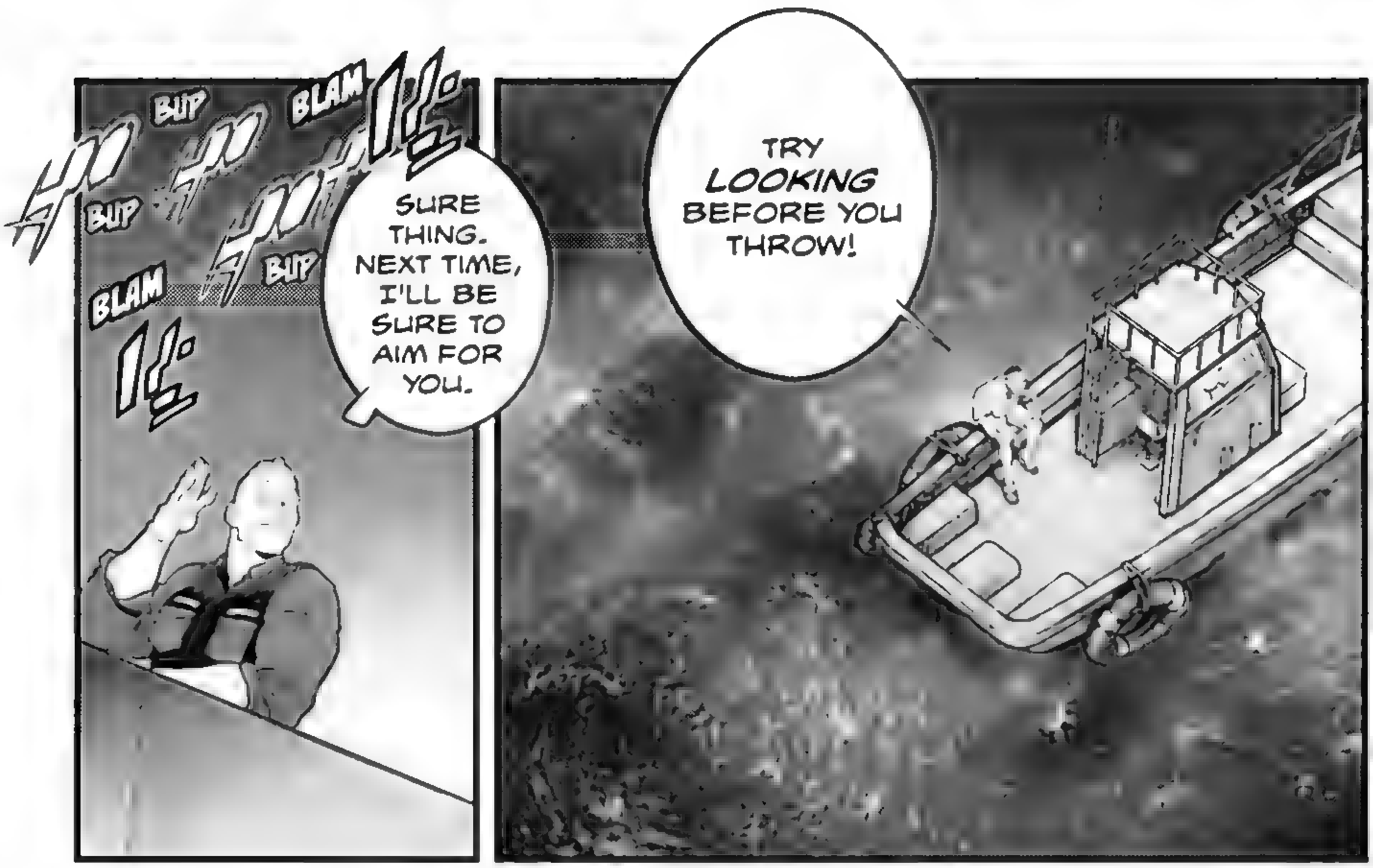
SO LONG, CHUMP.

SHIT! WHAT'S GOING ON?!

WHAT THE HELL DID YOU DO?!
WE HAD A DEAL!

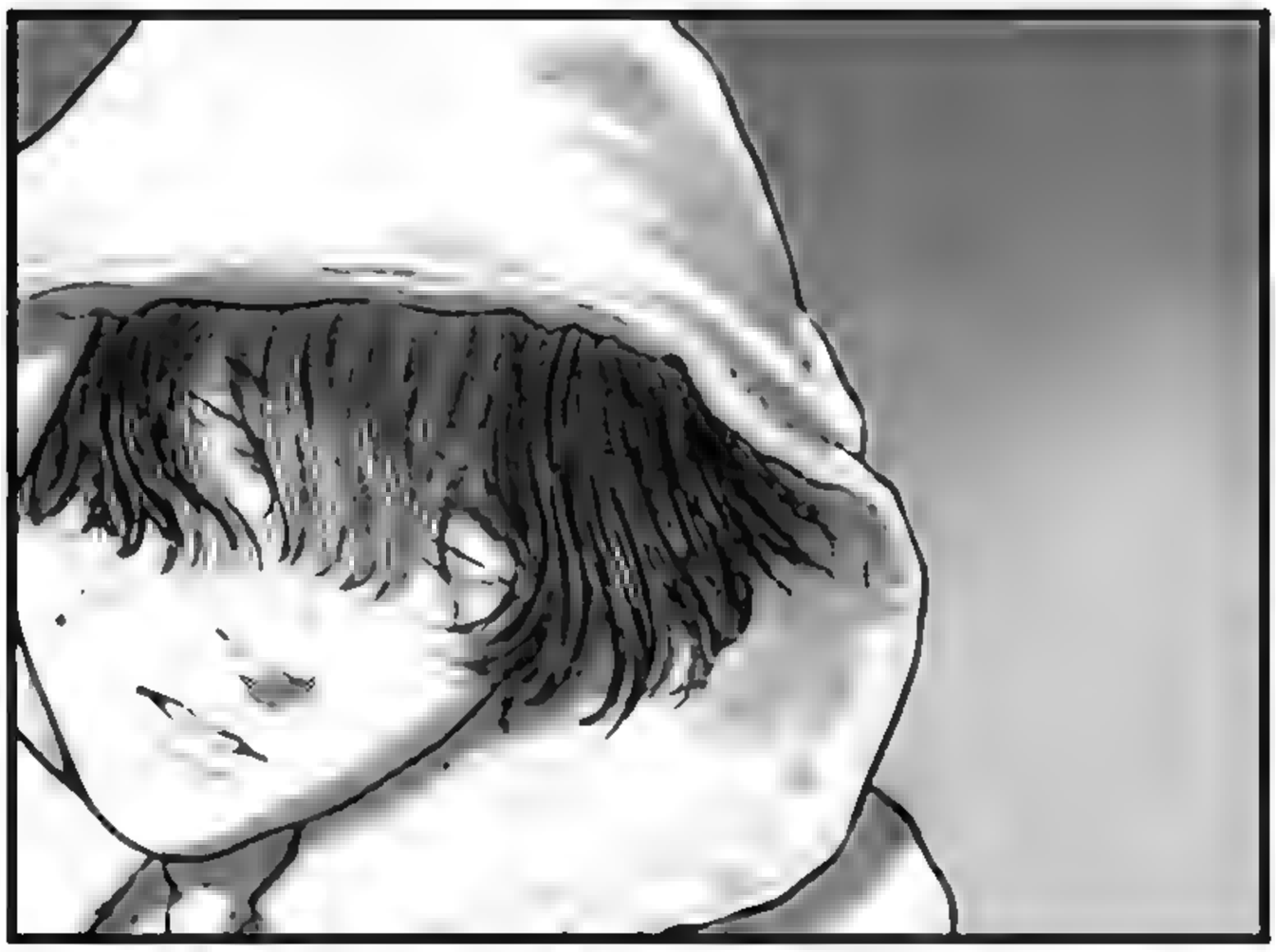
LIGHT 'EM UP!
BUP
BUP
BUP
BUP
BUP
BUP
BUP
BUP
BUP
SLAM
SLAM
UP WE GO.

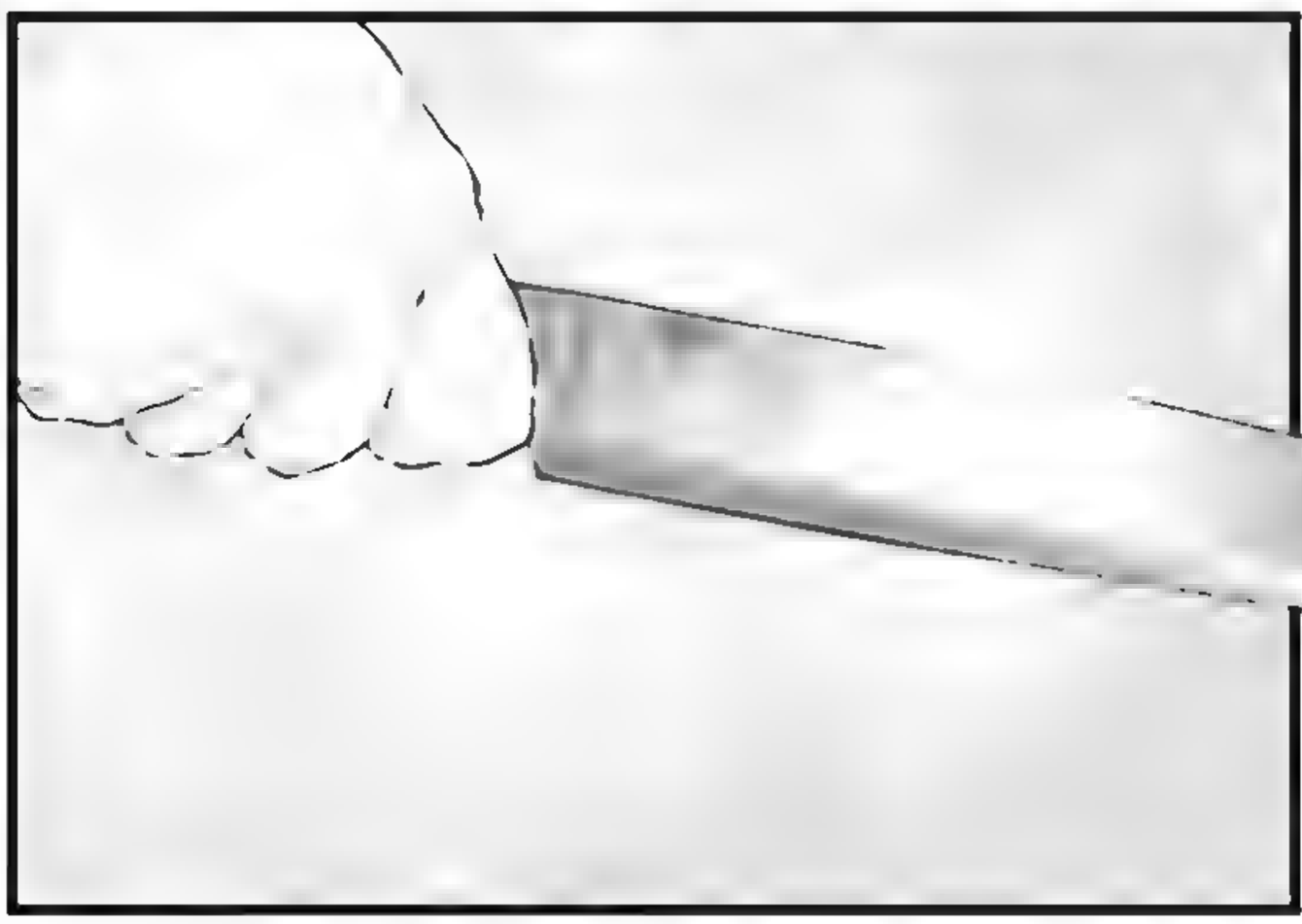
?!
HEY! WATCH IT!


BLIP
BLAM
BLIP
BLIP
BLAM
SURE THING. NEXT TIME, I'LL BE SURE TO AIM FOR YOU.
TRY LOOKING BEFORE YOU THROW!

YEAH, WHERE'S HE HEADED?
YOU'RE GOING AFTER HIM, RIGHT?
I GOT A HIT ON SHOH HASHIKAMI'S LAST KNOWN LOCATION.

NEW PORT CITY.
BWOOOM





19
HUMANLIKE BEHAVIOR

THMP

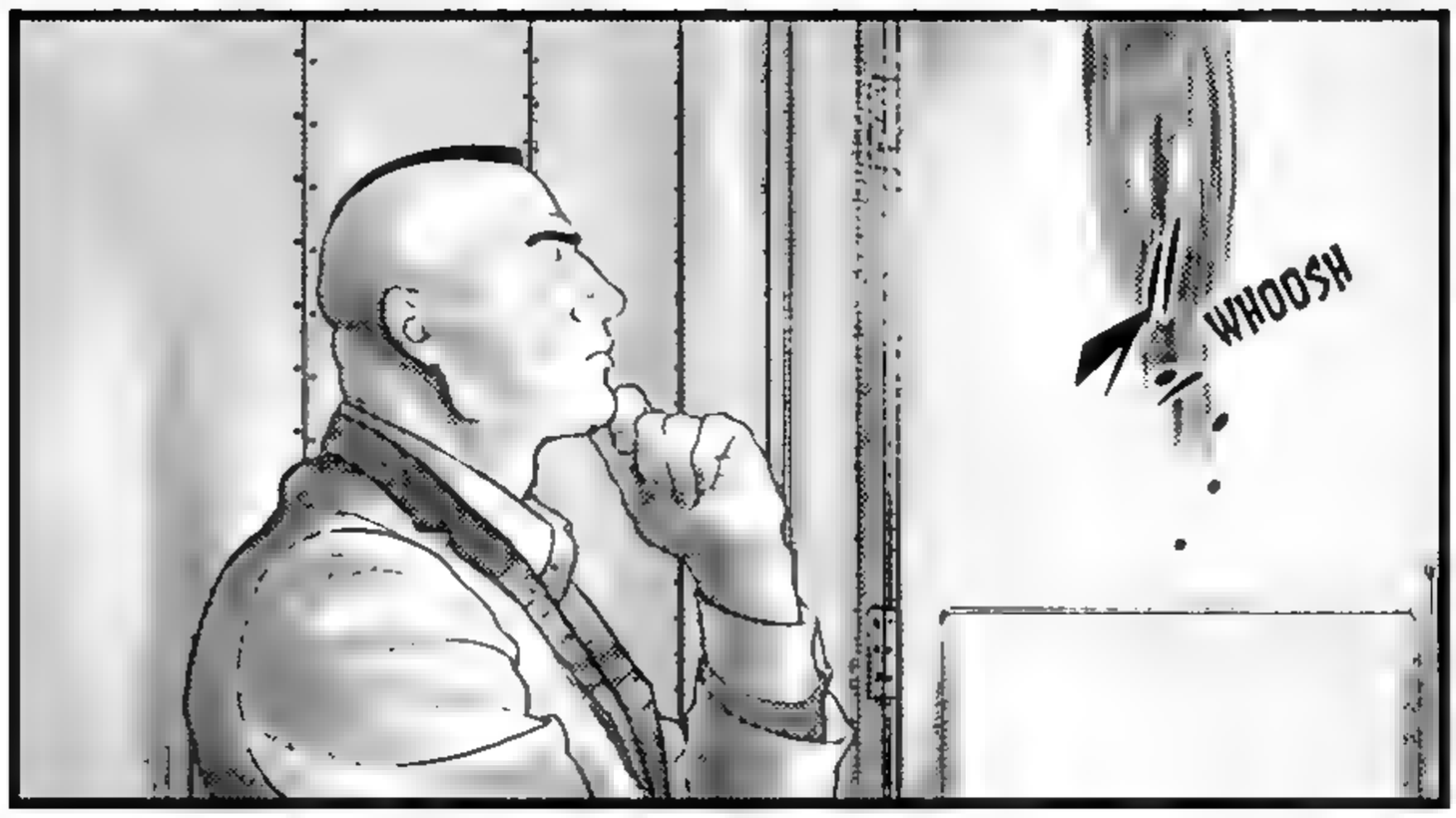
HFF...

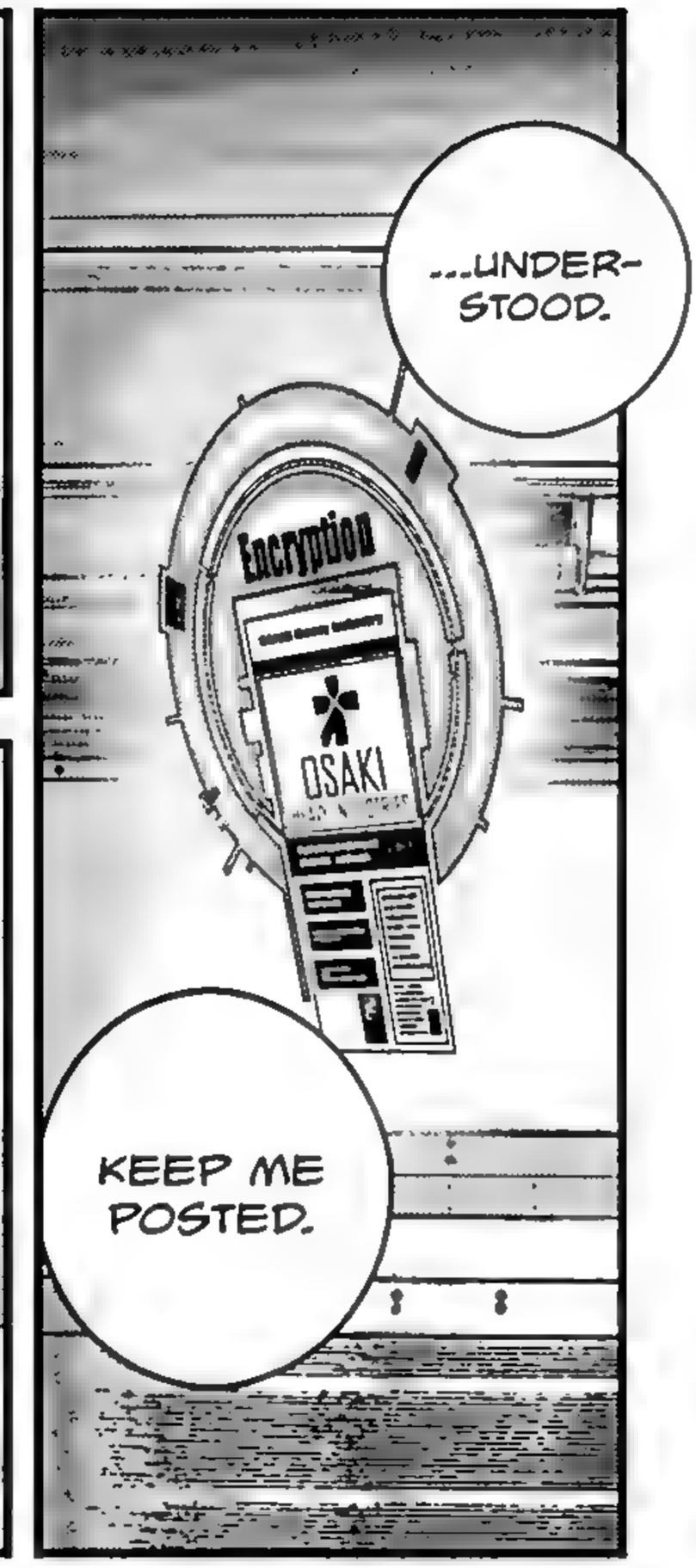
THMP

THMP

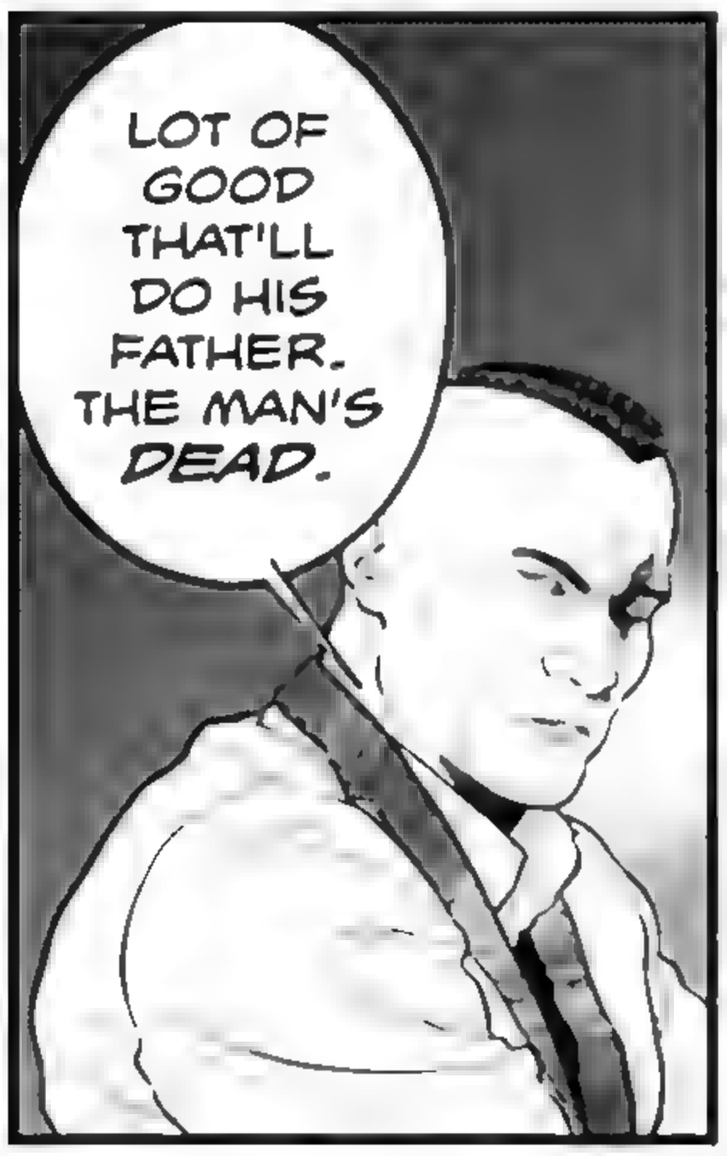
HFF...

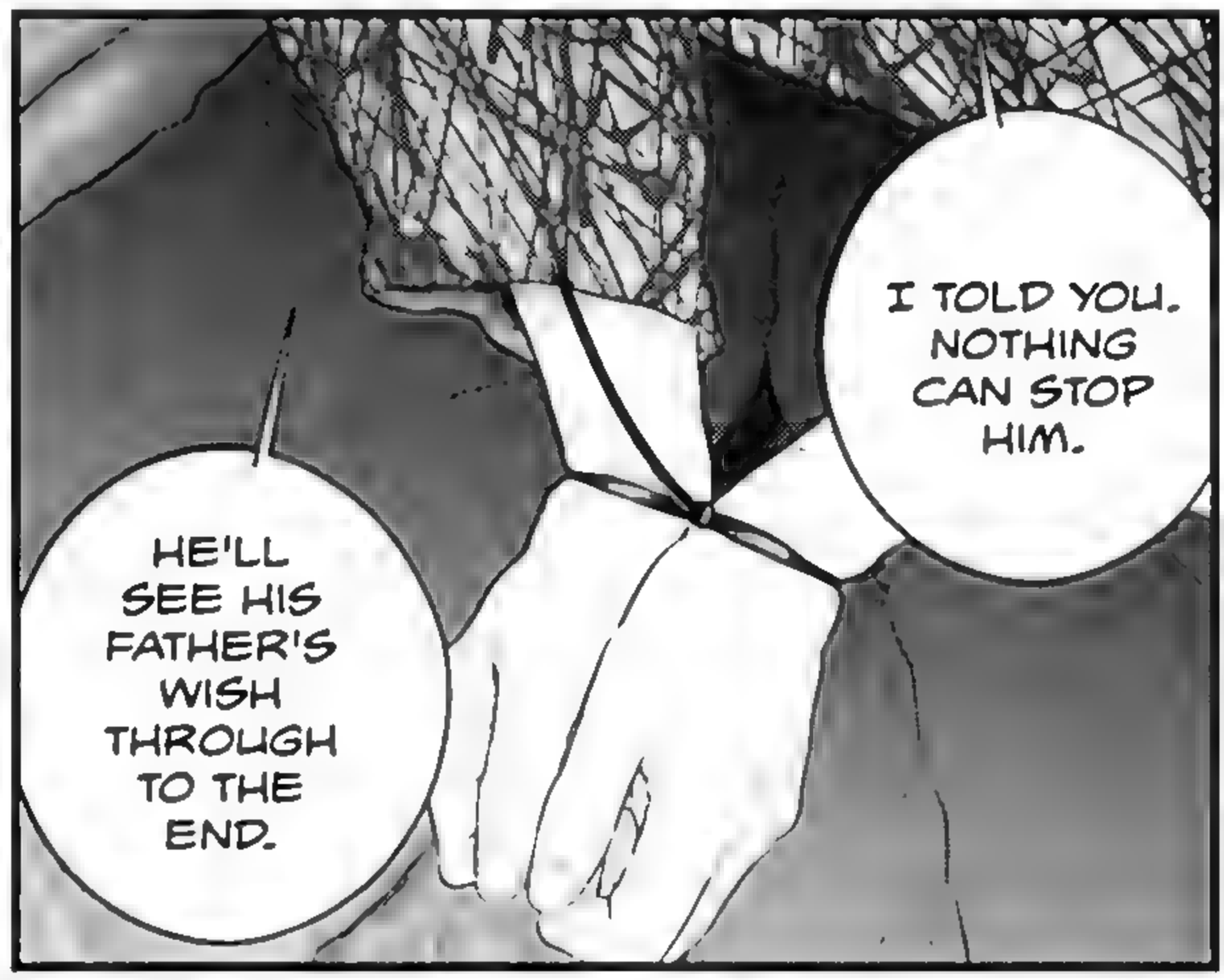
STAB
NGH!
AAAAUGH!
RM
MM
BL
新名
京都 大阪 新浜
Kyoto Osaka Niihama


WHOOSH


...UNDER-
STOOD.
Encryption
OSAKI
KEEP ME
POSTED.

IT WOULD APPEAR MY BULLET IS FAST APPROACHING ITS TARGET.


LOT OF GOOD THAT'LL DO HIS FATHER. THE MAN'S DEAD.


I TOLD YOU. NOTHING CAN STOP HIM.
HE'LL SEE HIS FATHER'S WISH THROUGH TO THE END.

OH, NO. ADEPT HASHIKAMI IS VERY MUCH ALIVE.
ENOUGH. YOU'RE NOT FOOLING ANYBODY.

HIS GHOST LIVES ON IN ALL THE ATERUI FAITHFUL.
...BUT AS FOR HIS SOUL...

TRUE, HIS VENERABLE PROSTHETIC AND BRAIN ARE NO MORE...

HA! YOU MEAN THE SAME ATERUI THAT'S ALL BUT EXTINCT?
CREAK

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU, ANYWAY? YOU YOMOTSU FREAKS WERE BRED TO FOLLOW ORDERS.
HOW THE HELL CAN YOUR GHOST LIVE ON IF YOU DON'T HAVE ONE TO BEGIN WITH?

THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG, TOMARU.

THAT PROVES IT. THOSE KIDS HAVE GOT GHOSTS. EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM.
SEE?

WHO ORDERED THE KID TO STAB THE DORM MOTHER WITH A SCREW-DRIVER?
NO ONE. THAT'S WHO.
HE ACTED OF HIS OWN FREE WILL TO PROTECT A FRIEND.

THEN WHA'SS THE POINT OF BREEDIN' PEOPLE WHO'LL LET THEMSELVES GET YANKED AROUND BY THEIR GHOSTS?
...LE'SS SAY YOU'RE RIGHT.

HOLD ON. DON'T TELL ME YOU THINK GHOSTS AREN'T IMPORTANT.
OSAKI'S GOT PROSTHETICS WITH ALL THE LATEST TECH AS IT IS.
WE SHOULD FOCUS ON PERFECTIN' WHAT WE ALREADY DO BEST.
THIS WHOLE WORLD...CITIES, PEOPLE, YOU NAME IT...IT'S ALL RUN BY MACHINES... WHAT WE NEED IS A LITTLE MORE *EMOTIONAL CONNECTION.*

YOU CAN'T JUST STICK ONE INSIDE A HARD, METAL COFFIN AND EXPECT IT TO FLOURISH.
GHOSTS ARE MEANT TO INHABIT LIVING, BREATHING BODIES.

MARK MY WORDS. FLESH IS THE FUTURE. SOONER OR LATER, EVERYONE'S GONNA BE CLAMORING FOR WARM BODIES WITH BLOOD PULSING THROUGH THEIR VEINS.

SO THERE'S YOUR ANSWER.

THE WORLD WENT TO SHIT, AND PEOPLE DECIDED THAT CHEAP, VERSATILE, *MECHANICAL* PROSTHETICS...

...WERE GOOD ENOUGH.

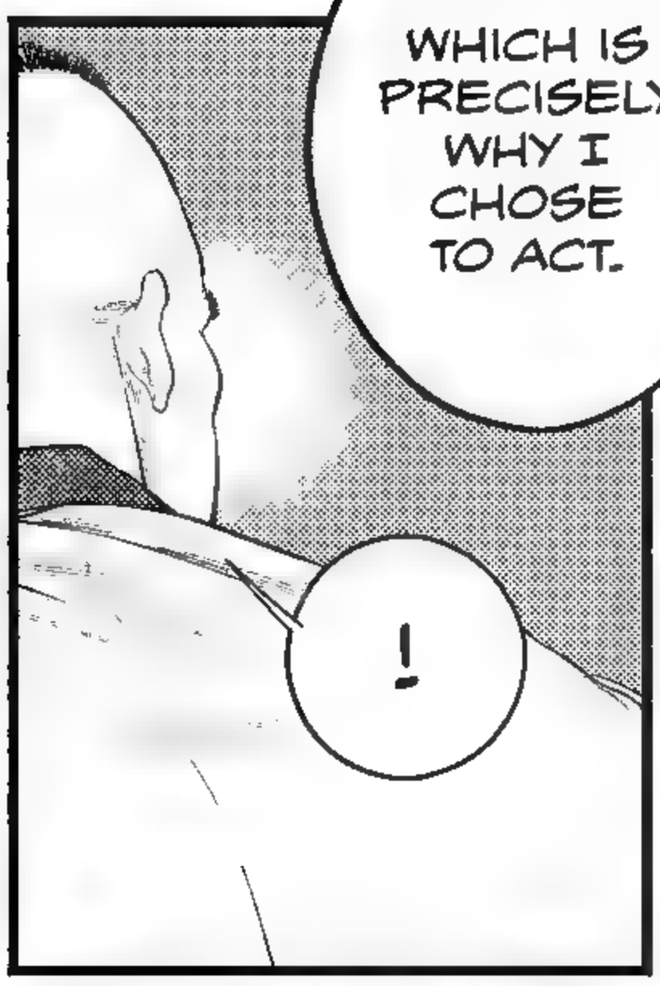
NOW YOU MUST PAY THE FERRYMAN HIS FEE.

THUS, YOU CHOSE TO REMAIN AT OSAKI AND BE WASHED AWAY WITH THE CURRENTS OF TIME.

HASHIKAMI'S THE ONE WHO'S DEAD! HIS STUBBORN ASS GOT LEFT BEHIND WHILE TIME ROLLED ON.

BA HA HA HA HA!

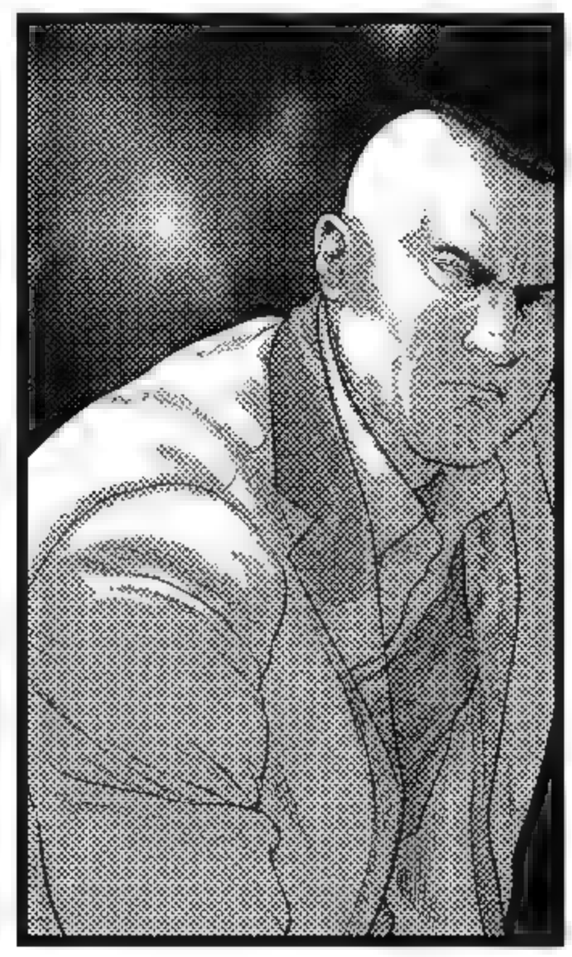
HA!

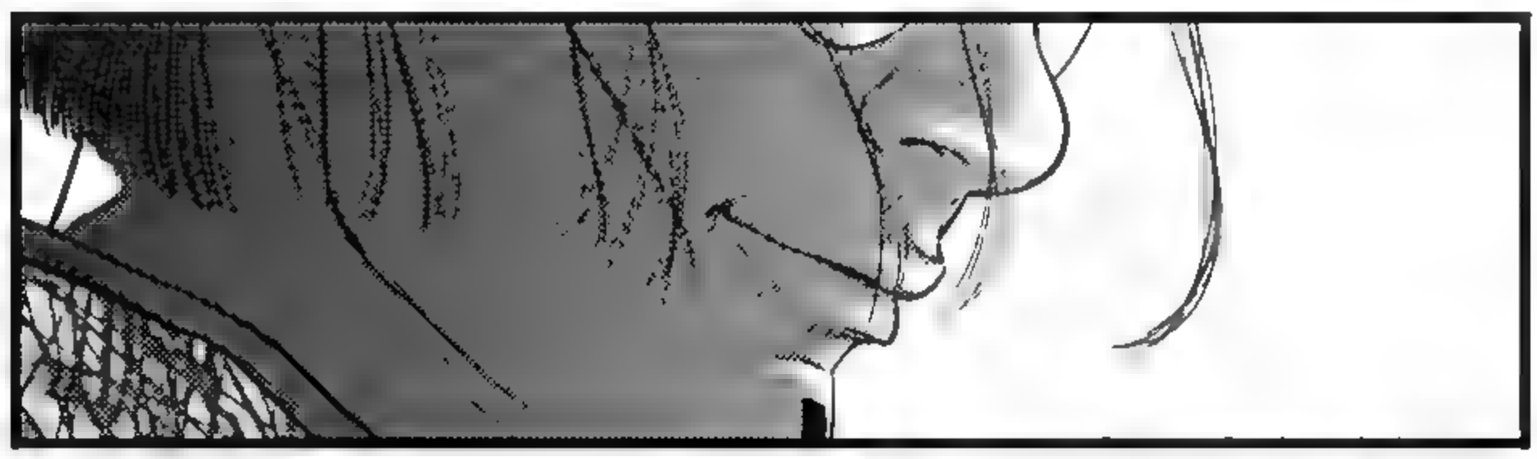

WHICH IS PRECISELY WHY I CHOSE TO ACT.
!

THAT GOES FOR HIS FAILED EXPERIMENTS, TOO.
HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU, BUT THE FUTURE AIN'T GOT NO ROOM FOR FREAKS LIKE YOU.

I KNEW THAT WE HAD TO LEAVE OUR MARK UPON THIS INORGANIC WORLD...
...SOME TANGIBLE PROOF THAT WE HAD BEEN BORN...THAT WE HAD *LIVED.*

LUCKY FOR US, PUBLIC SECURITY'S GUNNING FOR YOUR MAN, TOO.
HMPH... GO AHEAD. STRUGGLE ALL YOU WANT.
I'LL BE THE ONE LAUGHING WHEN THE DUST SETTLES.





NO ONE CAN MATCH THE WHITE BEAR...

...WHEN THE WORLD TURNS TO WHITE.

I DON'T LIKE IT. IT'S LIKE SOME KINDA OMEN ABOUT THE COMING OF THE WHITE BEAR.
FAT CAT

WHY THE HELL IS IT SNOWING THIS TIME OF YEAR?
LOTTA GOOD OUR THERMOPTICS ARE GONNA DO IN ALL THIS SNOW.
SHIVER

THAT EVENS THINGS OUT...

I HAVE THE HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE. HE HAS THE WEATHER.
STAIRS

WHATEVER HAPPENS, NO ONE CAN SAY IT WASN'T A FAIR FIGHT.

HE DOESN'T TALK MUCH... JUST LIKE DAD SAID.
THROB
OOF!

SPLASH
SPLISH
HEY, UH... WE HAVEN'T MET BEFORE, HAVE WE?
...

!
RATTLE
RATTLE

WHAT IS IT THAT MAKES US HUMAN?

LET ME ASK YOU SOME-THING, SHOH...

PCHK
HEY. SHOH. YOU LISTENING?

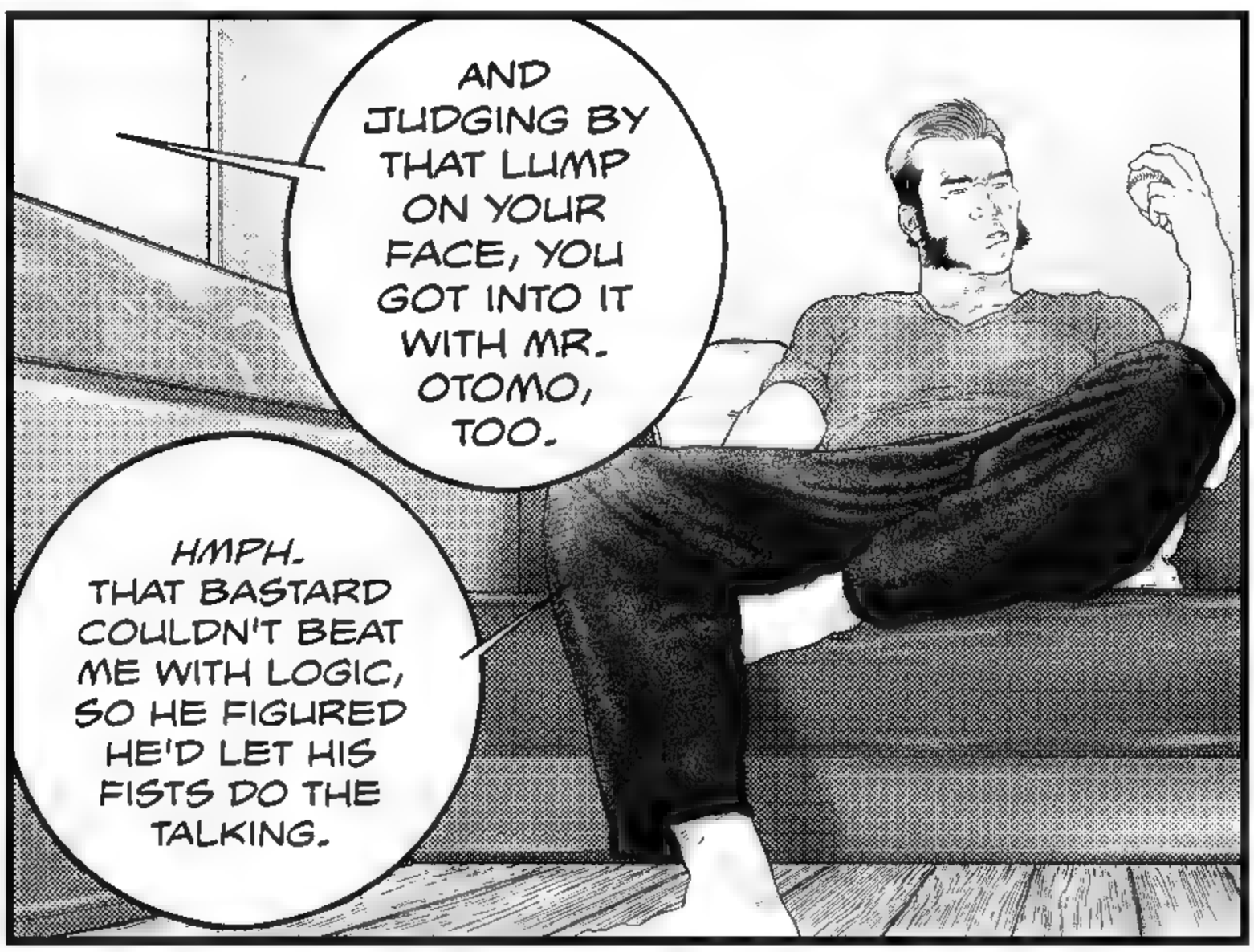
I'M TRYING TO FOCUS.
COULD YOU NOT TALK TO ME RIGHT NOW?
HELLO-OOO?
FWISH
NOBODY WANTS TO HEAR WHAT I'VE GOT TO SAY ANYMORE.

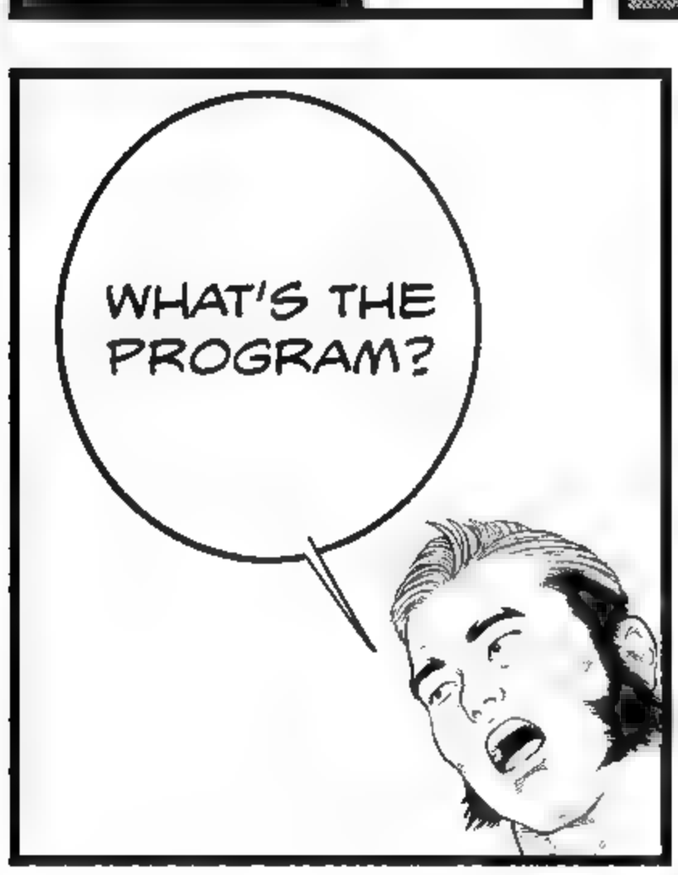
PCHK
CREAK...
I HEARD THE NEWS THIS MORNING.
ABOUT WHAT?

...

...BUT HE'S THE *FOUNDER!*
THEY'RE SAYING YOU WENT OFF ON SHINZO MIKOMOTO. LOOK, I KNOW YOU'RE A BIG-SHOT ENGINEER, AND I KNOW YOU HELPED BUILD THE PLACE...
ABOUT OSAKI. THE POTENTIAL BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CHINESE.

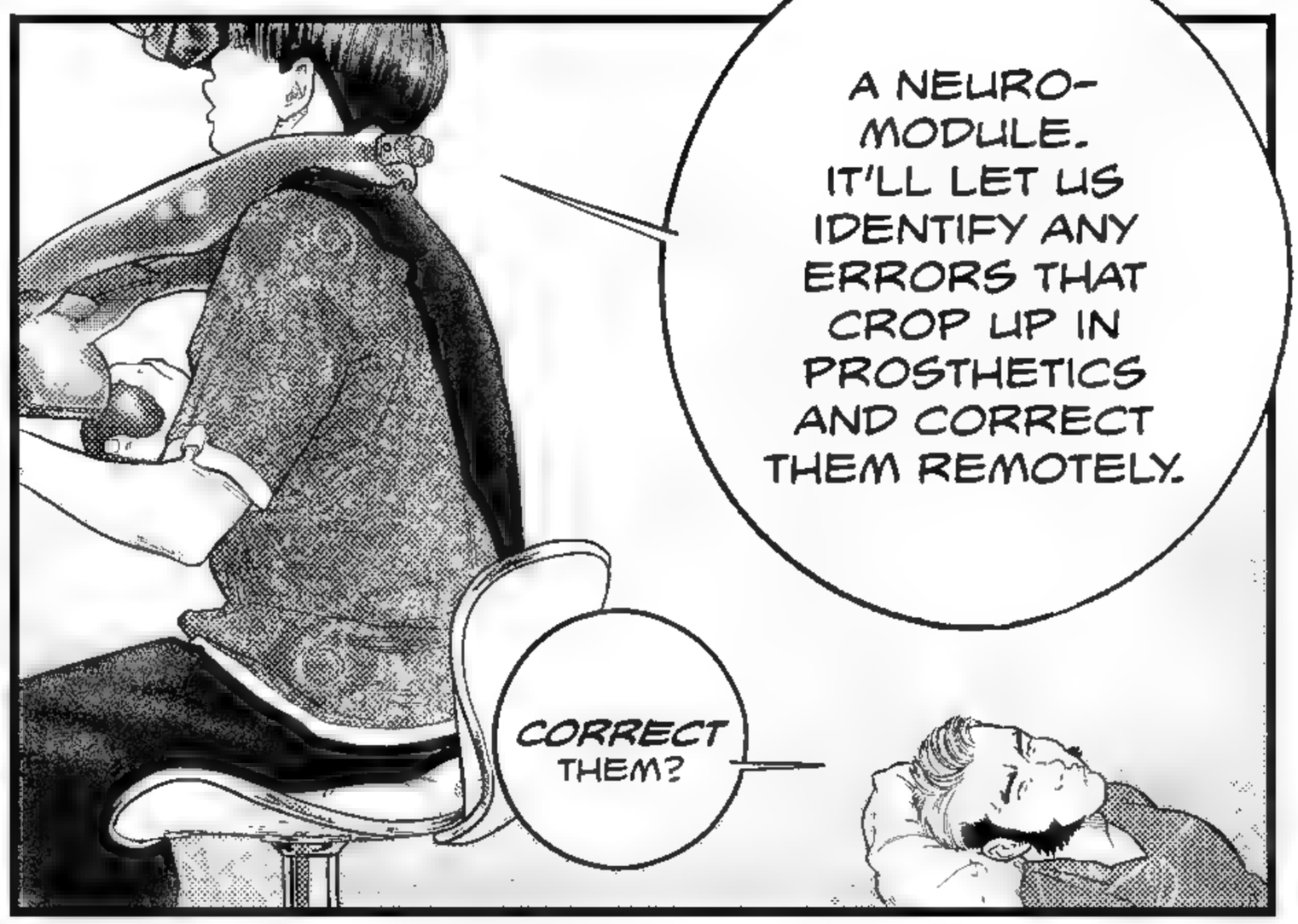
YEAH, AND NOW I'M THE ONE WHO HAS TO SUFFER FOR IT.


AND JUDGING BY THAT LUMP ON YOUR FACE, YOU GOT INTO IT WITH MR. OTOMO, TOO.
HMPH. THAT BASTARD COULDN'T BEAT ME WITH LOGIC, SO HE FIGURED HE'D LET HIS FISTS DO THE TALKING.


WHAT'S THE PROGRAM?

I'M GONNA FINISH THIS PROGRAM AND SHOW OSAKI MANAGEMENT WHAT I'M MADE OF.
ANYWAY, I'M BUSY. LEAVE ME ALONE.

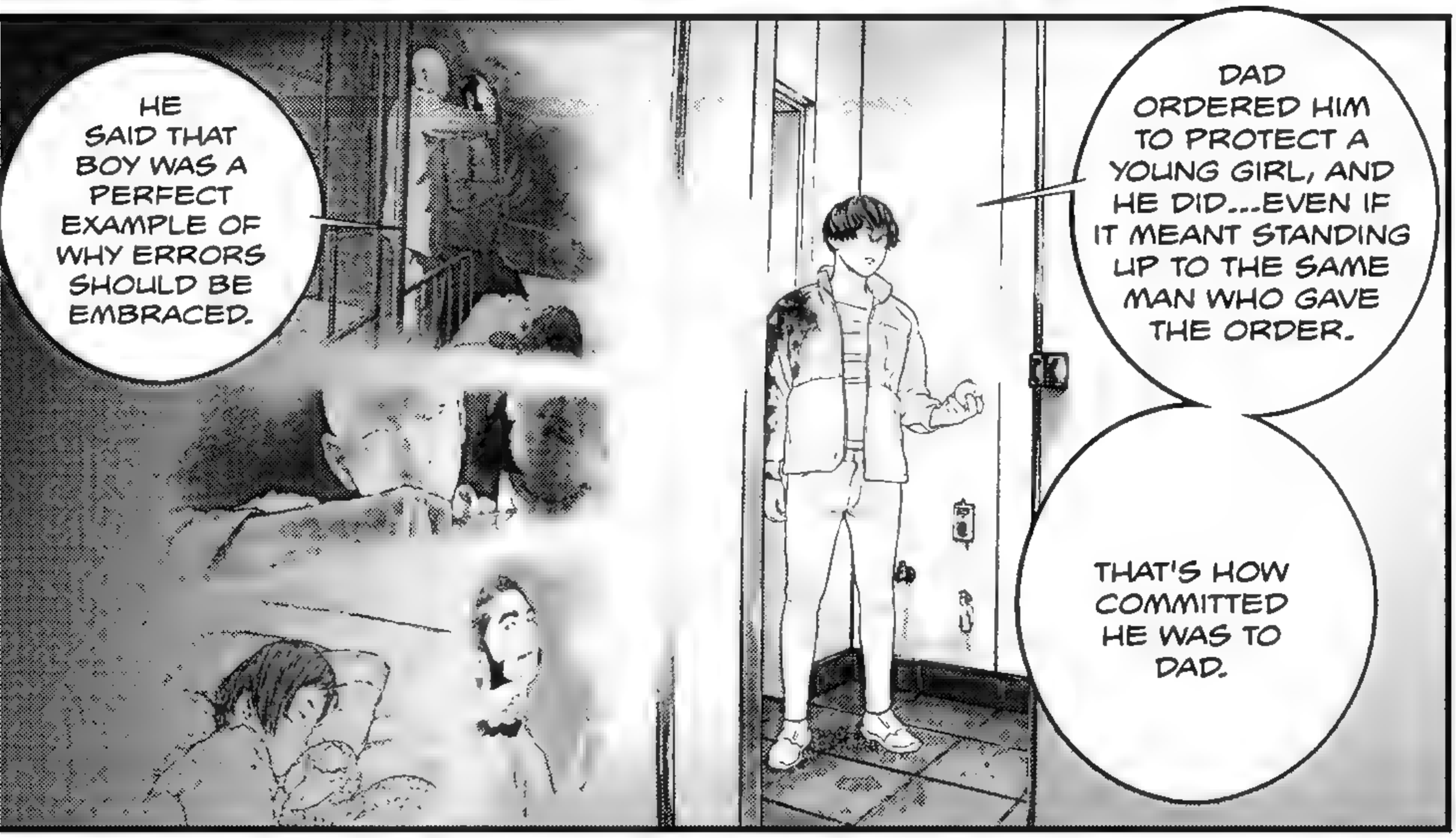
AW, C'MON! YOU, TOO, SHOH?
YOU'RE JUST LIKE TOMARU!


A NEURO-MODULE. IT'LL LET US IDENTIFY ANY ERRORS THAT CROP UP IN PROSTHETICS AND CORRECT THEM REMOTELY.
CORRECT THEM?

TAKE BASEBALL, FOR EXAMPLE! IT'S THE PLAYERS' MISTAKES THAT MAKE IT EXCITING TO WATCH!
POINT
YOU HEAR ME?!
ROLL
HEY!
WHERE'S THE FUN IN THAT?
YOU GOTTA EMBRACE THE ERRORS. CHERISH 'EM!
SHOH!
HOP

I'M TALKING ABOUT UNPREDICT-ABILITY!
THAT'S THE ROOT OF WHAT MAKES US HUMAN!

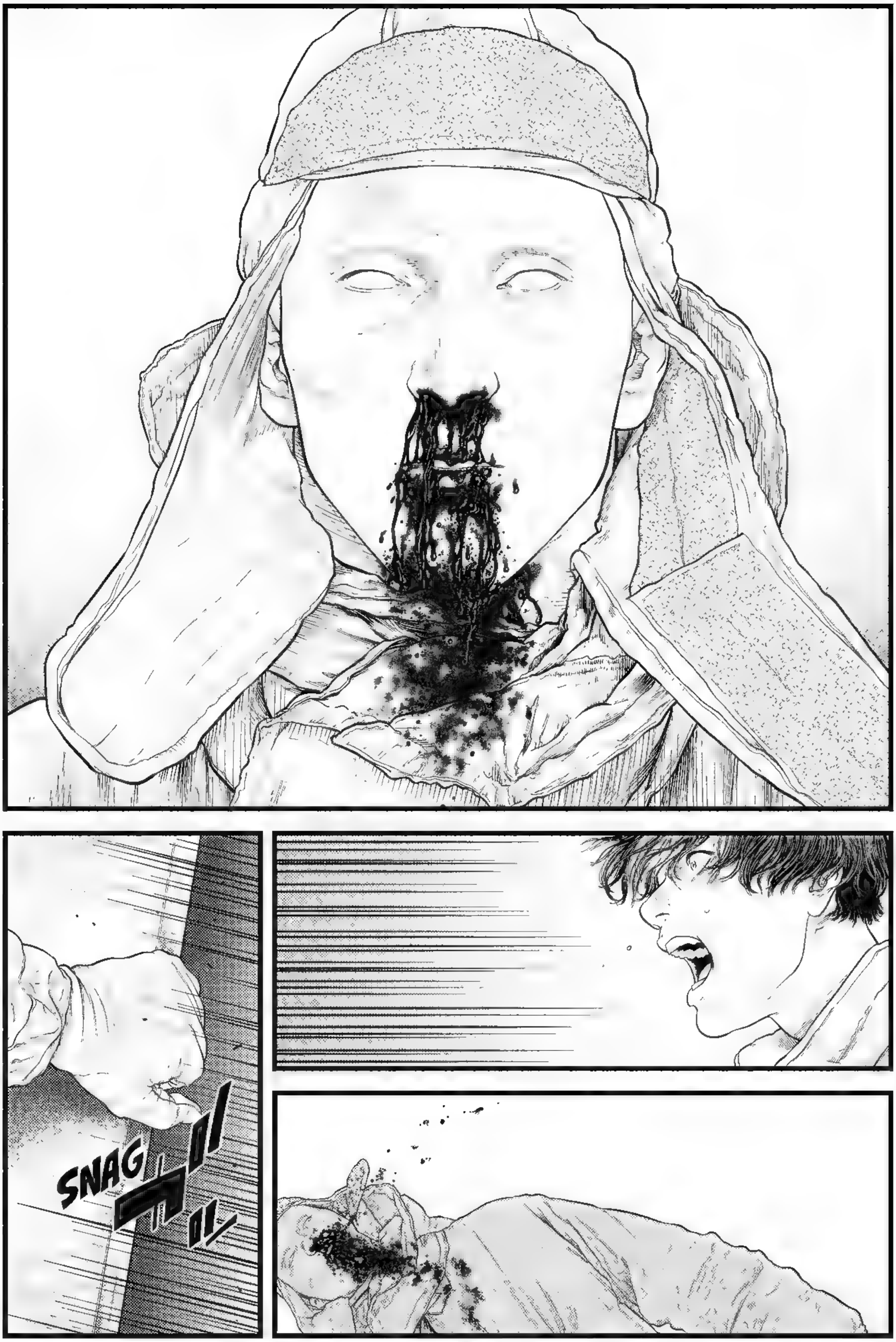
...AND IT WAS THE DAY HE TOLD ME ABOUT A BOY NAMED YUKIO.
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME HE TOLD ME ABOUT YOMOTSU. HE'D KEPT IT SECRET ALL THAT TIME...


HE SAID THAT BOY WAS A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF WHY ERRORS SHOULD BE EMBRACED.
DAD ORDERED HIM TO PROTECT A YOUNG GIRL, AND HE DID...EVEN IF IT MEANT STANDING UP TO THE SAME MAN WHO GAVE THE ORDER.
THAT'S HOW COMMITTED HE WAS TO DAD.

THAT'S YOU, ISN'T IT? YOU'RE YUKIO.

HOW'S MY GREATEST CREATION HOLDING UP?
HEY, YUKIO.

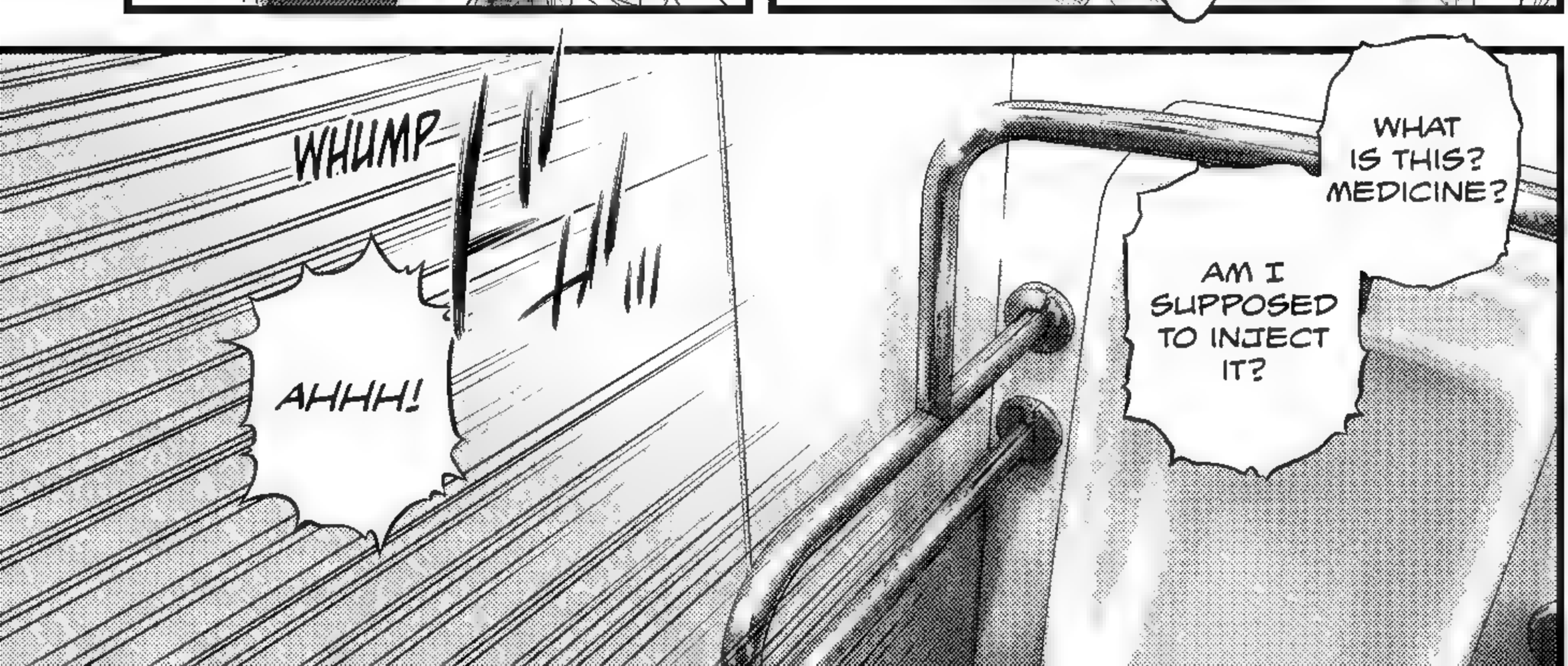
I'M GOING TO AVENGE MY FATHER.
NOW'S THE TIME TO GIVE THE KILLING BLOW AND BRING ALL THEIR SINS TO LIGHT.
RIGHT NOW, OSAKI'S GOING TO PIECES TRYING TO CLEAN UP THE MESS I MADE WITH THEIR PROSTHETICS.
SHINRA MIKOMOTO IS THE ONLY ONE WITH THE POWER TO BRING OSAKI BACK TO LIFE...
WITH HER IN THE WAY, I...
YUKI—

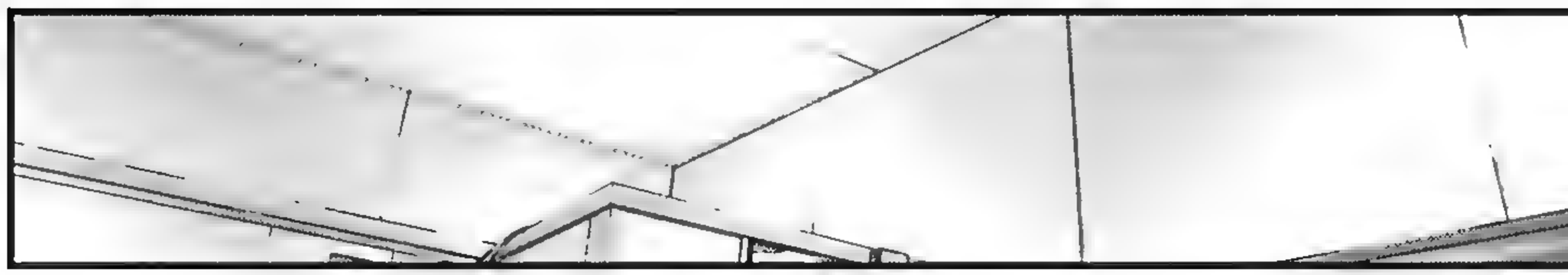

SNAG
OI
OI

SPLAT

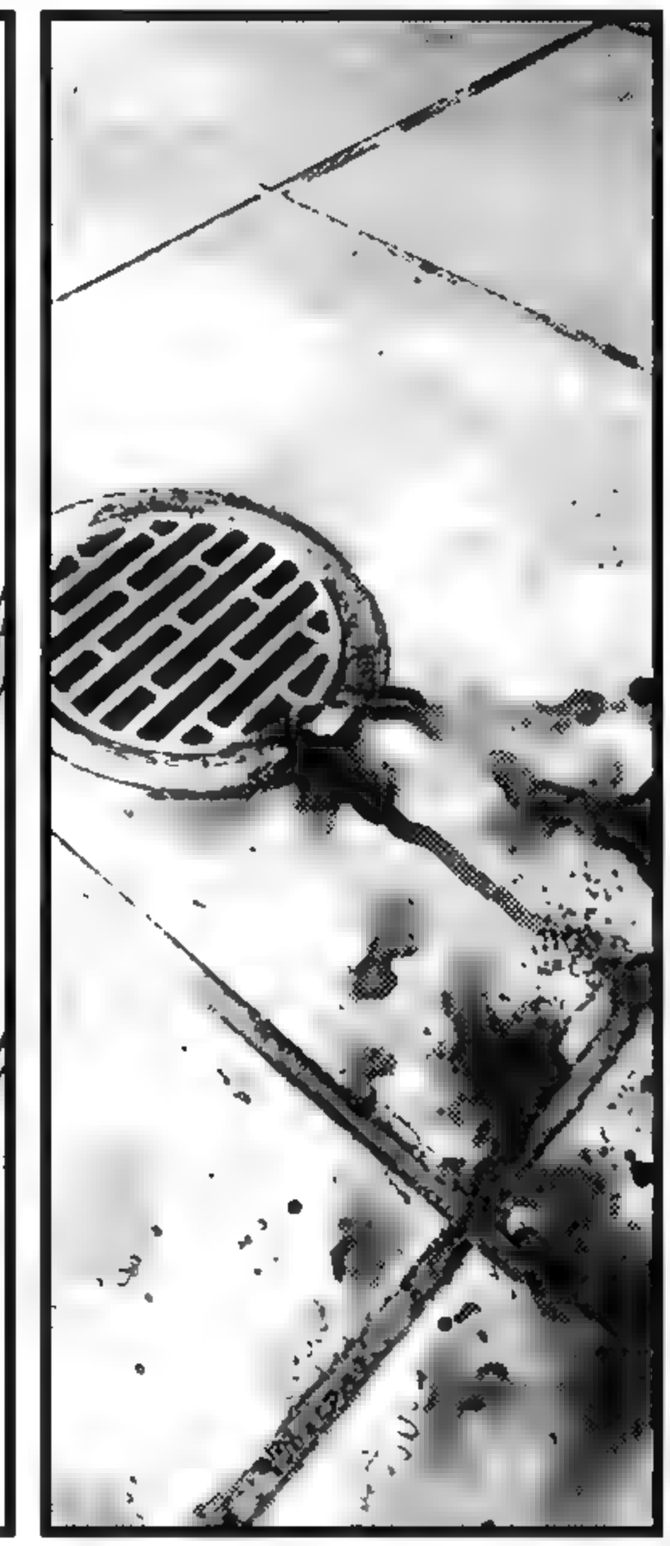
WHAM

HFF...
?!
HFF...


WHUMP
AHHH!
WHAT IS THIS? MEDICINE?
AM I SUPPOSED TO INJECT IT?

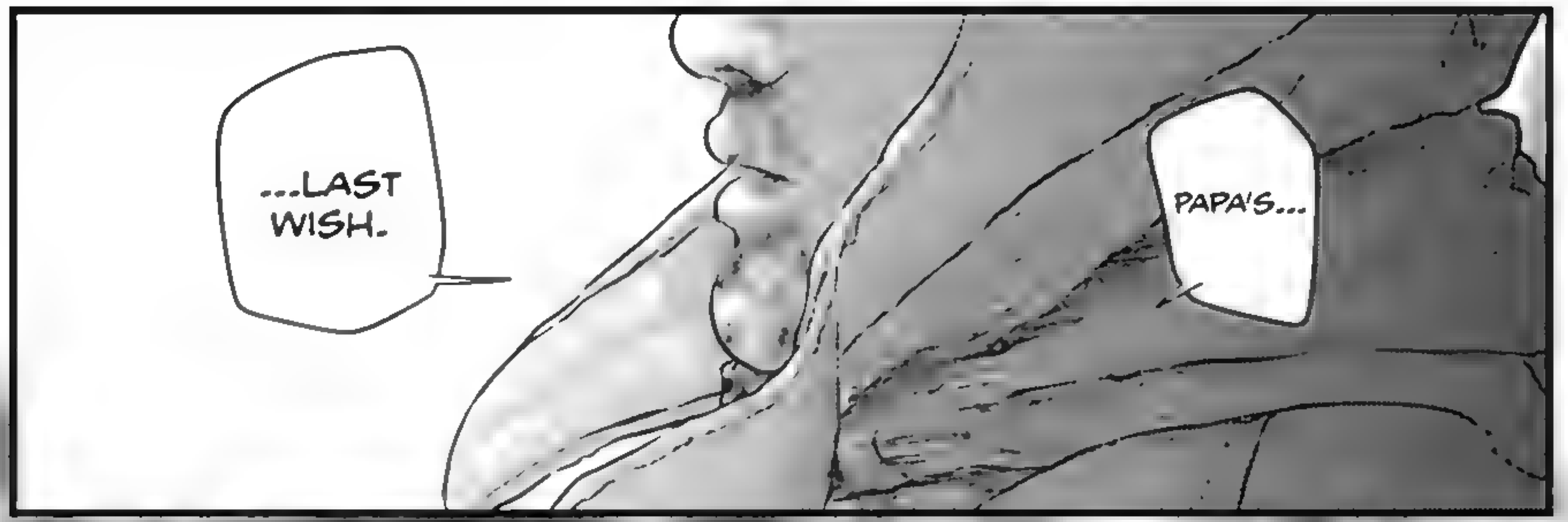


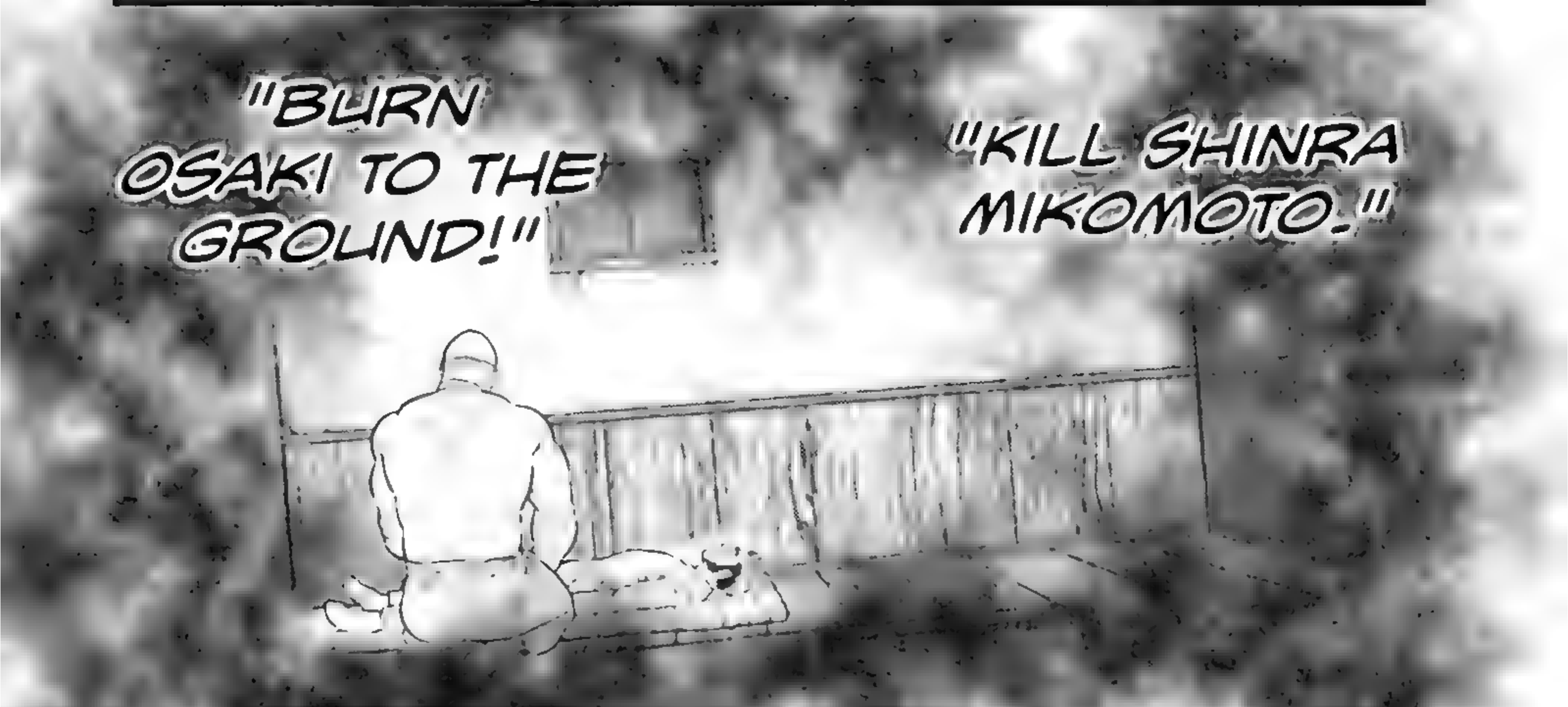
IS THAT ALL YOU HAD ON YOU?
...



HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

THAT WAS THE LAST VIAL IN THE CASE.


...LAST WISH.
PAPA'S...


"BURN OSAKI TO THE GROUND!"
"KILL SHINRA MIKOMOTO."

DAD'S WISH LIVES ON IN MY HEART...

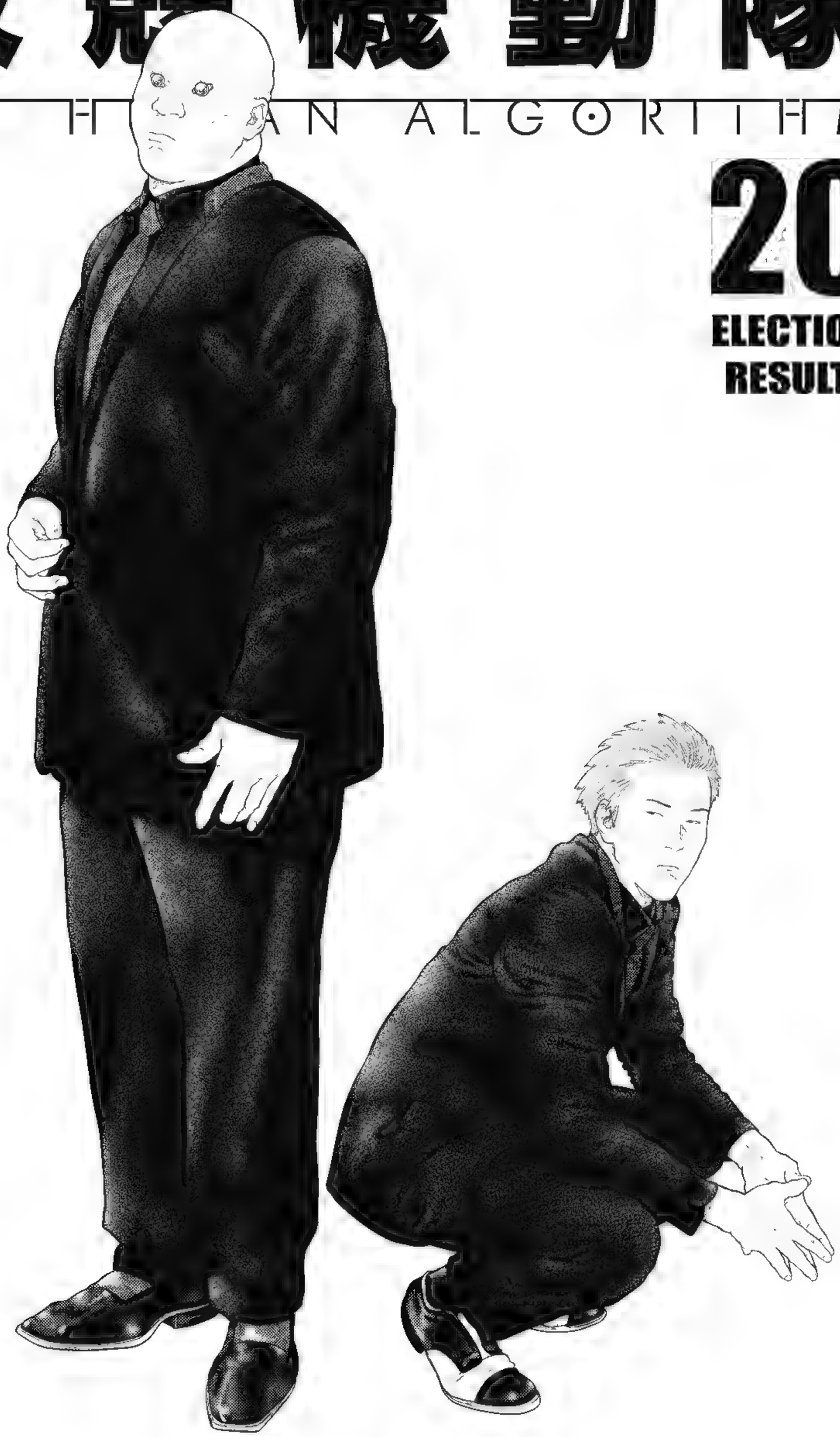
...AND IN YOURS.

LET'S SEE IT THROUGH. TOGETHER.

THE GHOST IN THE SHELL

攻殻機動隊

THE HUMAN ALGORITHM



20

ELECTION RESULTS

SKREEK
SKREEK
WHO TURNED DOWN THE THERMOSTAT?
WE STILL IN THE SAME COUNTRY?
TCH! THE COLD'S KILLING MY RESPONSE TIMES.
THESE BARGAIN BIN PROSTHETICS AREN'T WIRED FOR THIS.
CLANG
CLANG
I'M GONNA NEED A NEW REMOTE.

HOW ABOUT ANOTHER HIGH SCHOOL CHICK?

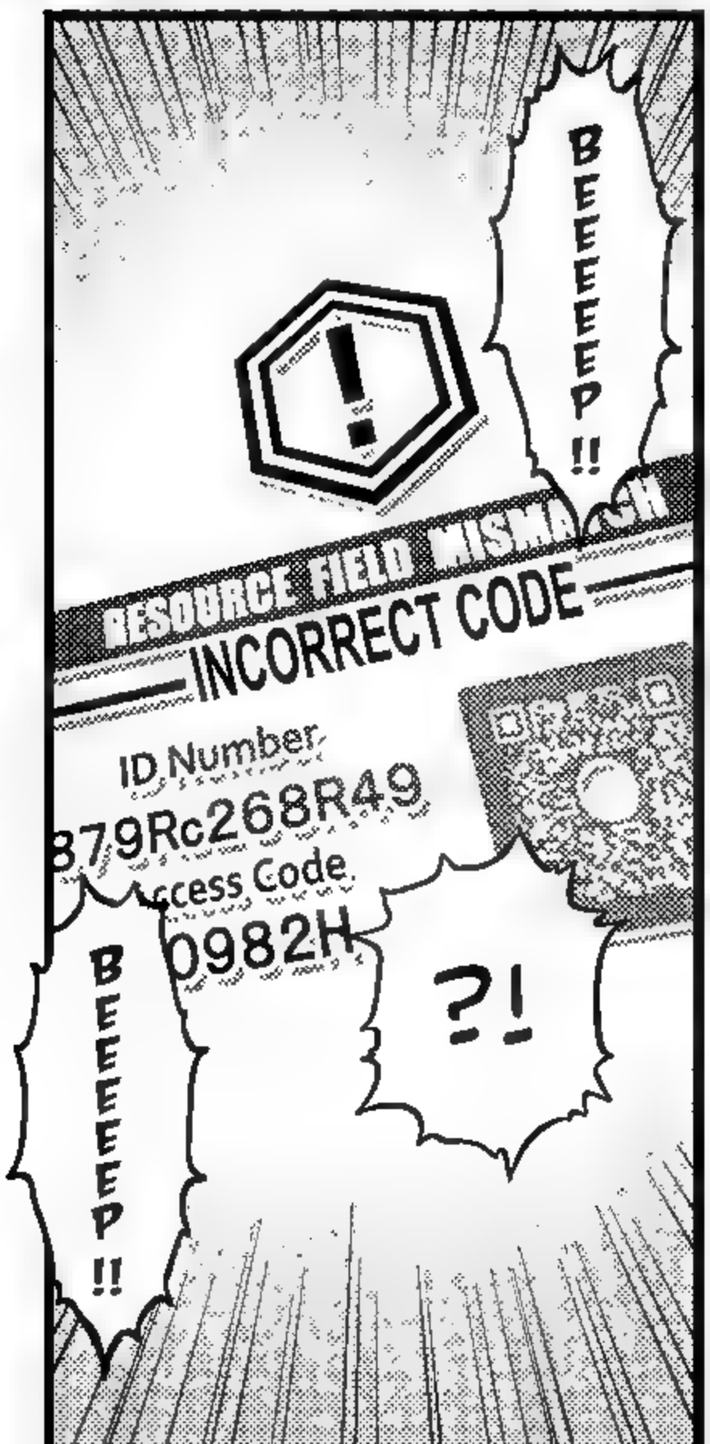
R
ニューポート
NEW PORT
市長選挙
MAYOR ELECTION
投票所
Polling Place

CITIZENS WITHOUT CYBERBRAINS MAY CAST A PHYSICAL BALLOT AT CITY HALL.

WELCOME! THIS ACCESS POINT IS FOR RESIDENTS OF R DISTRICT ONLY.

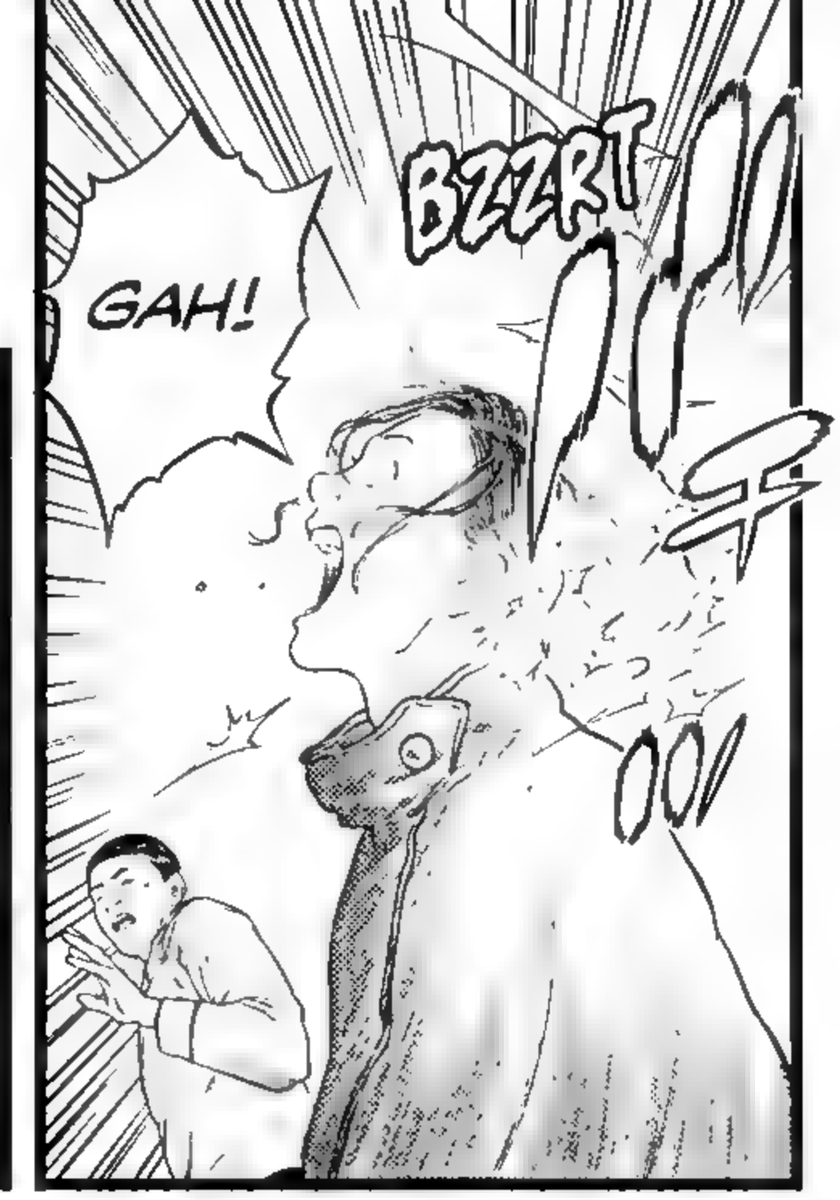
BUSTLE

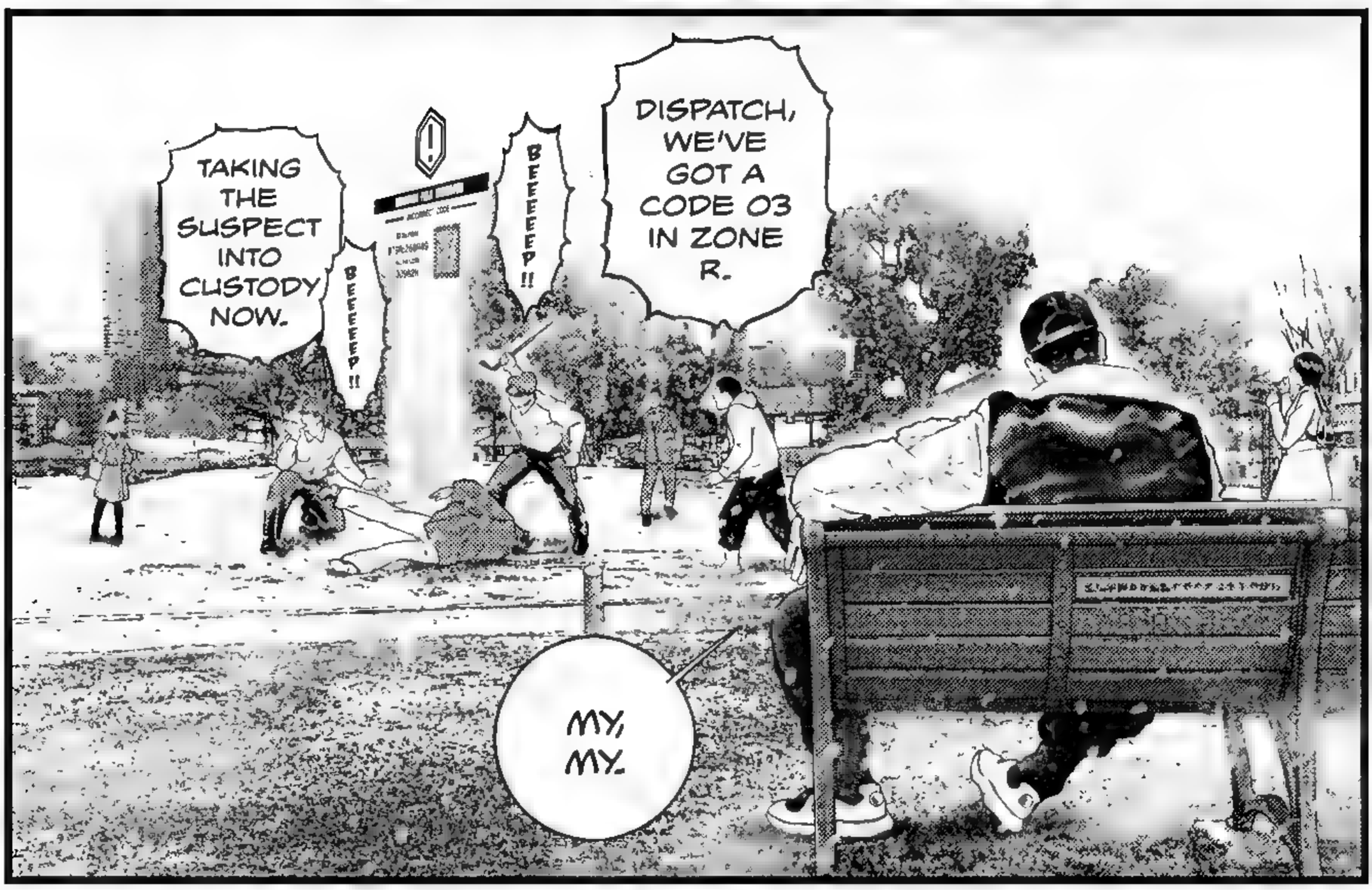
BUSTLE

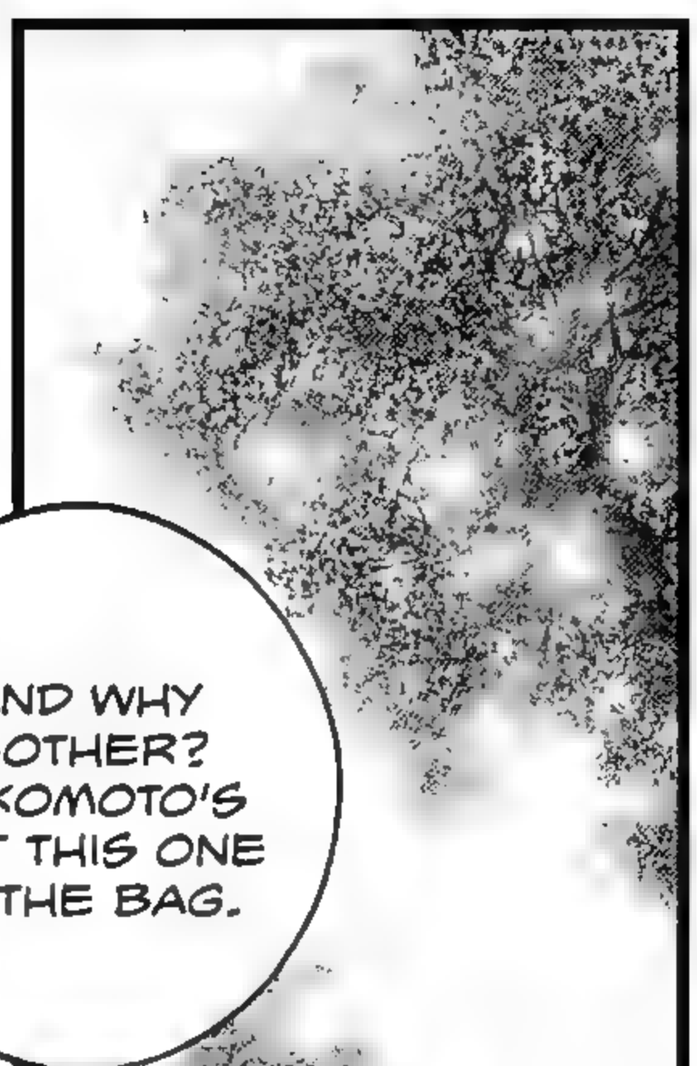


THANK YOU FOR VOTING!

STAND BACK, PLEASE!
DID SHE TRY TO USE A FAKE I.D.?!
WHAT WAS THAT?!


GAH!
BZZRT


TAKING THE SUSPECT INTO CUSTODY NOW.
BEEEEEEP !!
BEEEEEEP !!
DISPATCH, WE'VE GOT A CODE 03 IN ZONE R.
MY, MY.

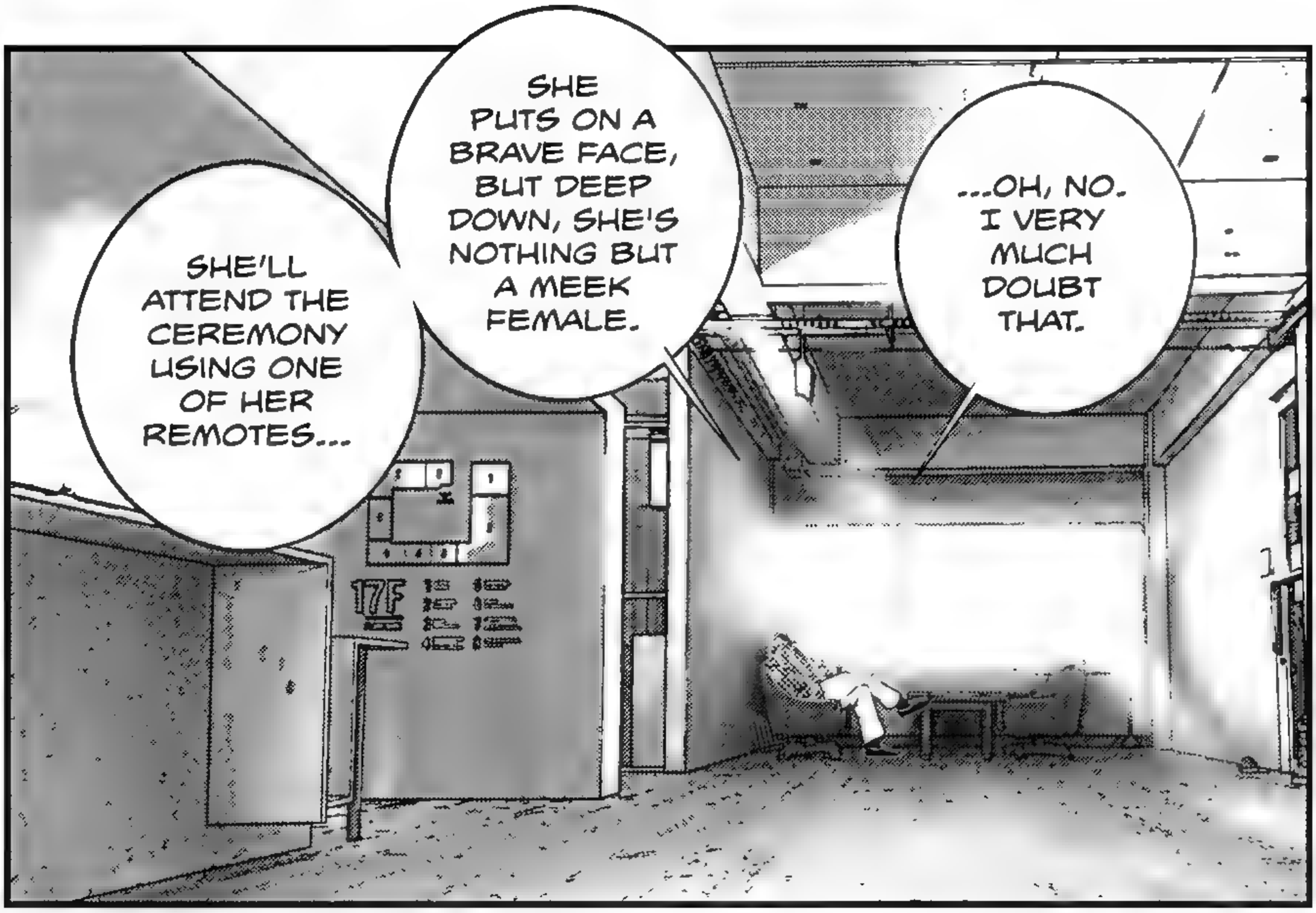

AND WHY BOTHER? MIKOMOTO'S GOT THIS ONE IN THE BAG.

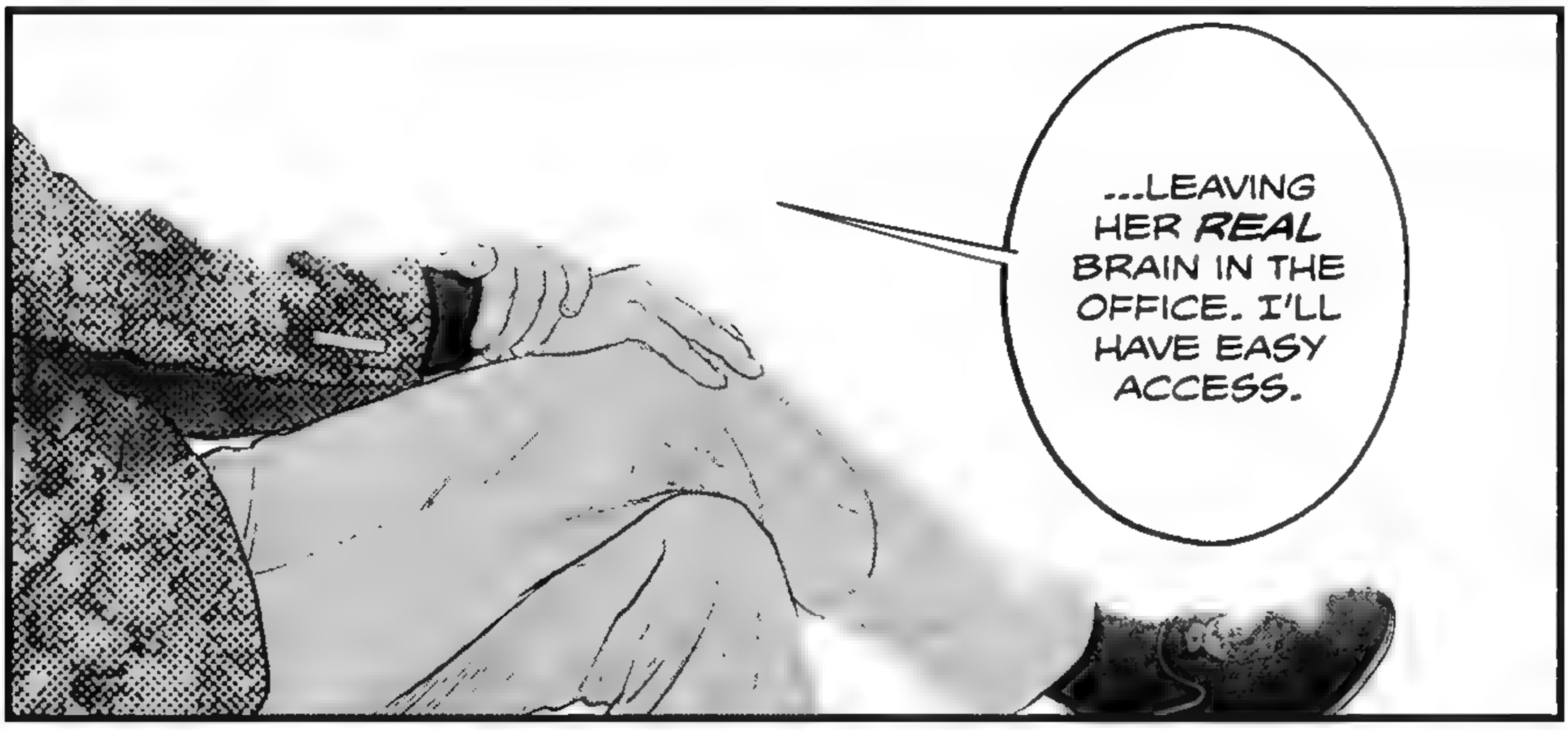
OOF! THAT'S GOTTA HURT.
THESE ANTI-VOTER-FRAUD MEASURES ...
...GET MORE RUTHLESS EVERY YEAR.

THE COUNCILOR'S VICTORY IS CERTAIN.

...YES.
PROMISING REVOLUTION IN HUMAN EVOLUTION
SHINRA MIKOMO

...THAT'S RIGHT.
ONCE THE VOTES ARE IN, SHE'LL HEAD TO THE INAUGURATION VENUE AS PLANNED.


SHE'LL ATTEND THE CEREMONY USING ONE OF HER REMOTES...
SHE PUTS ON A BRAVE FACE, BUT DEEP DOWN, SHE'S NOTHING BUT A MEEK FEMALE.
...OH, NO. I VERY MUCH DOUBT THAT.
17F


...LEAVING HER *REAL* BRAIN IN THE OFFICE. I'LL HAVE EASY ACCESS.

YES. OF COURSE, MR. MA...

ONCE I'M IN, HER MIND IS YOURS TO RESHAPE HOWEVER CHINA SEES FIT.

...VERY WELL. GOODBYE FOR NOW, MR. MA.

...

HEH... AND WITH IT, CHINA'S *BORDERS*, TOO.

STILL WANNA GET INTO POLITICS, NOW THAT YOU'VE SEEN WHAT IT'S LIKE?

SHWWM

GOOD THINKIN'.

ONLY AFTER I GET SOME EYES INSTALLED IN THE BACK OF MY HEAD.

17F

IT'S FINALLY ELECTION DAY HERE IN NEW PORT...

ELECTION DAY IN NEW PORT

HAPPENING TODAY

MOTOI KAKUYAMA

SHINRA MIKOMOTO

NPT AN?

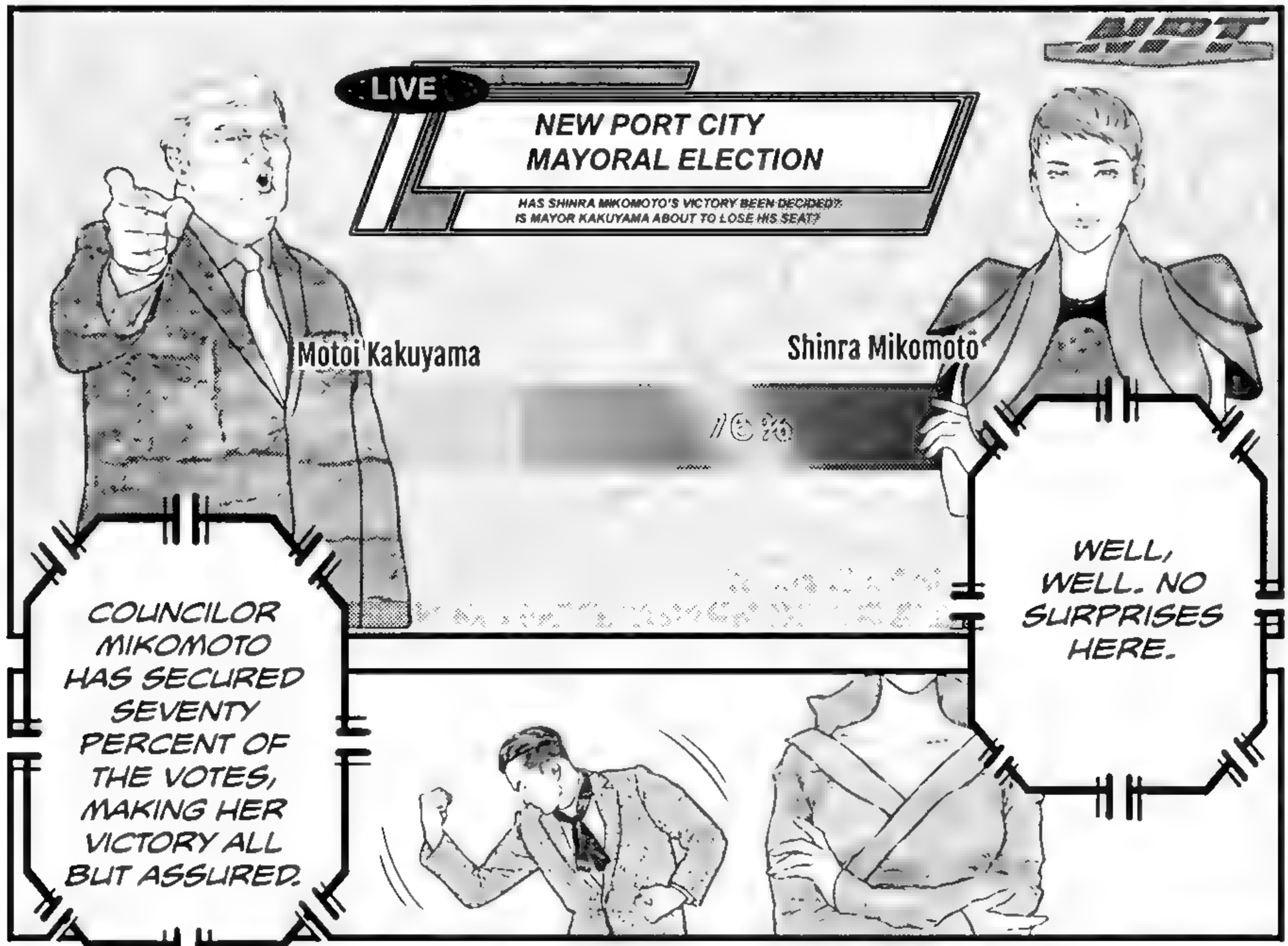
LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THE LATEST COUNT.

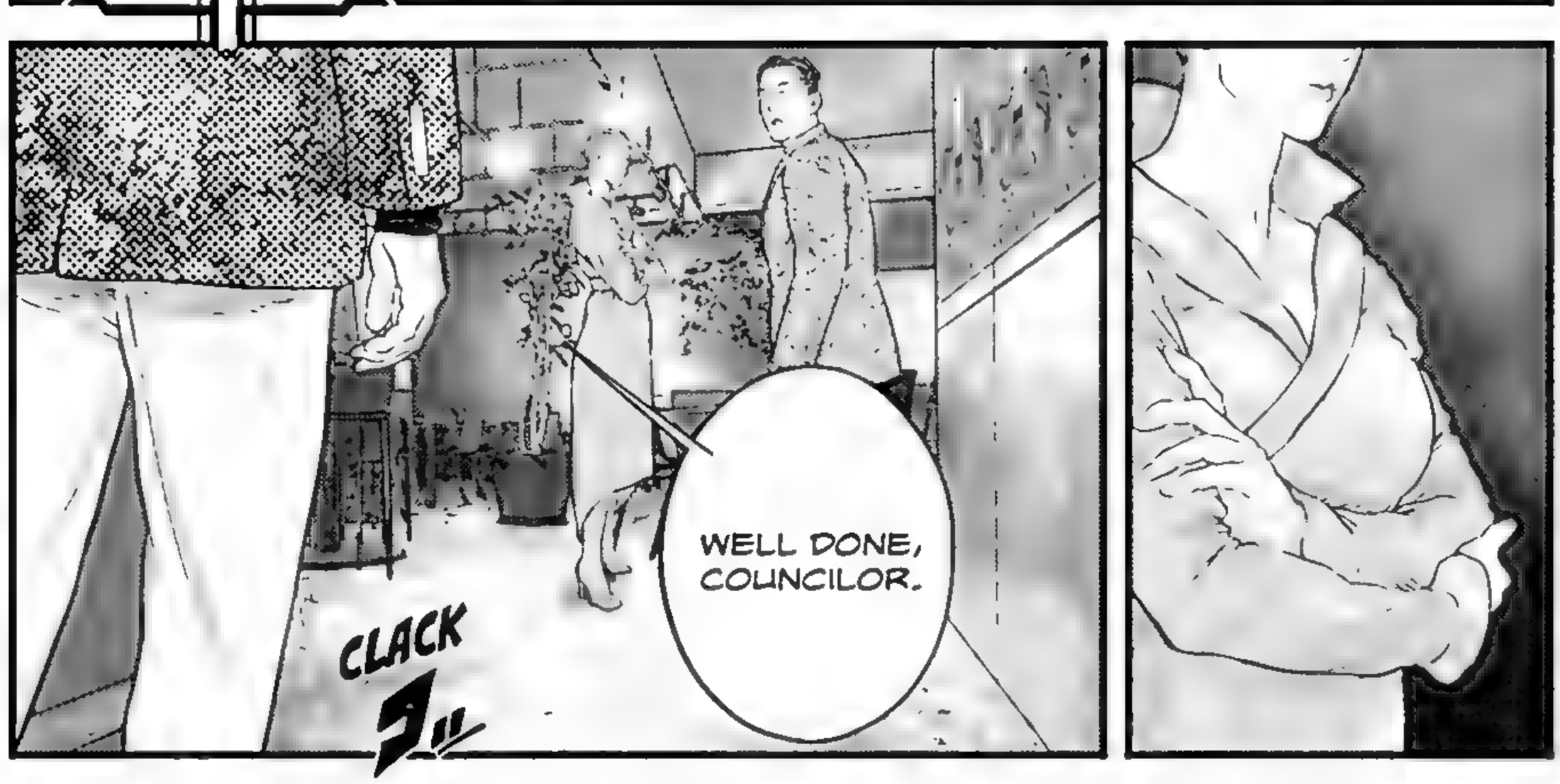
NEW PORT CITY MAYORAL ELECTION

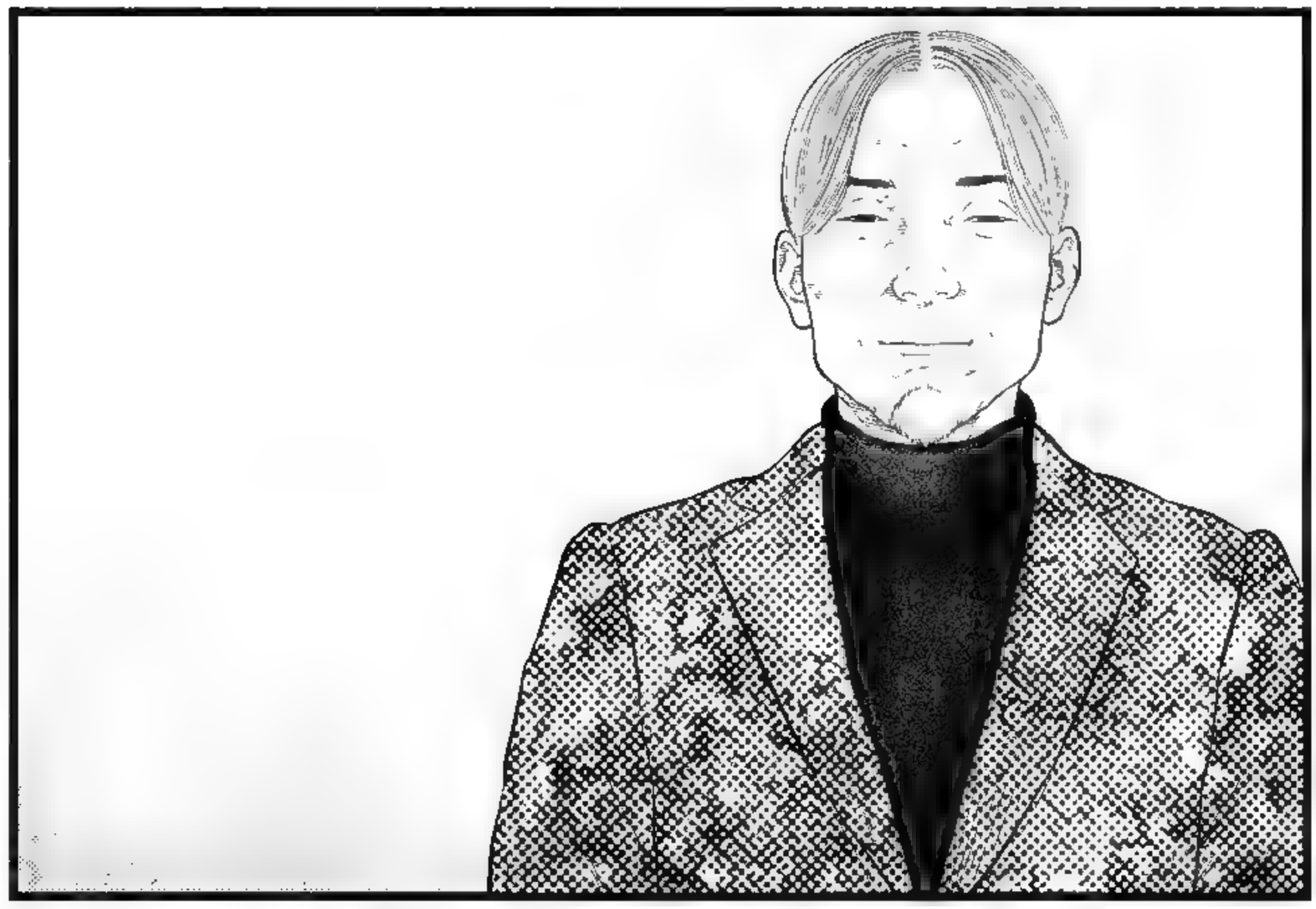
NPT AN

...AND CYBERBRAIN VOTING RESULTS ARE ALREADY ROLLING IN FOR EACH DISTRICT.

VWOOSH


NPT
LIVE
NEW PORT CITY
MAYORAL ELECTION
HAS SHINRA MIKOMOTO'S VICTORY BEEN DECIDED?
IS MAYOR KAKUYAMA ABOUT TO LOSE HIS SEAT?
Motoi Kakuyama
Shinra Mikomoto
COUNCILOR MIKOMOTO HAS SECURED SEVENTY PERCENT OF THE VOTES, MAKING HER VICTORY ALL BUT ASSURED.
WELL, WELL. NO SURPRISES HERE.


WELL DONE, COUNCILOR.
CLACK



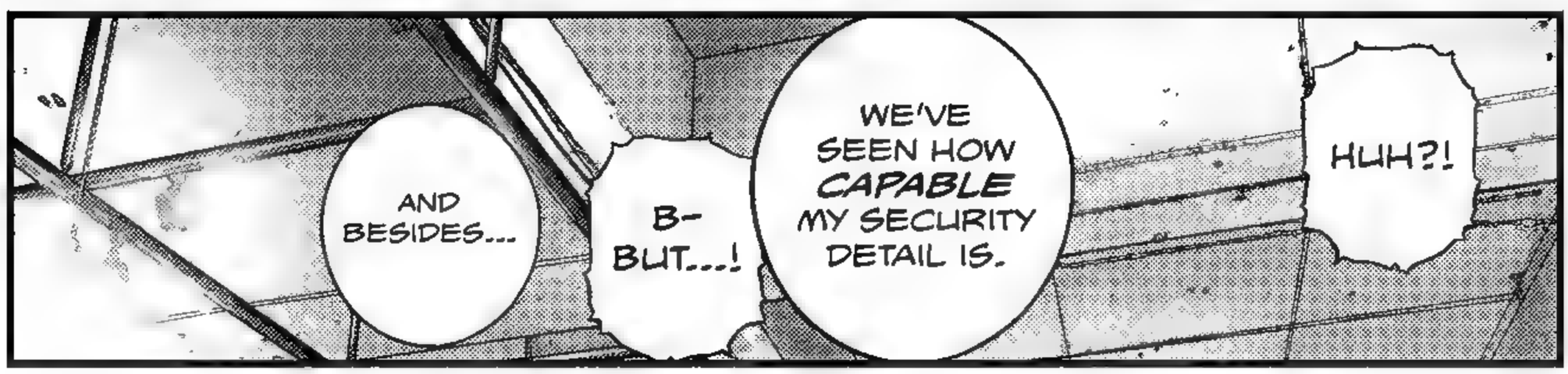
NEW PORT C
Motoi
Kakuyama
OF COURSE. I'LL SEE TO IT MYSELF.
BUT... GO AHEAD AND HAVE MY ACCEPTANCE SPEECH CUED UP.
CLICK

IS THIS WHAT YOU MEANT BY AN ABSOLUTE VICTORY?
IT'S NOT OVER YET.

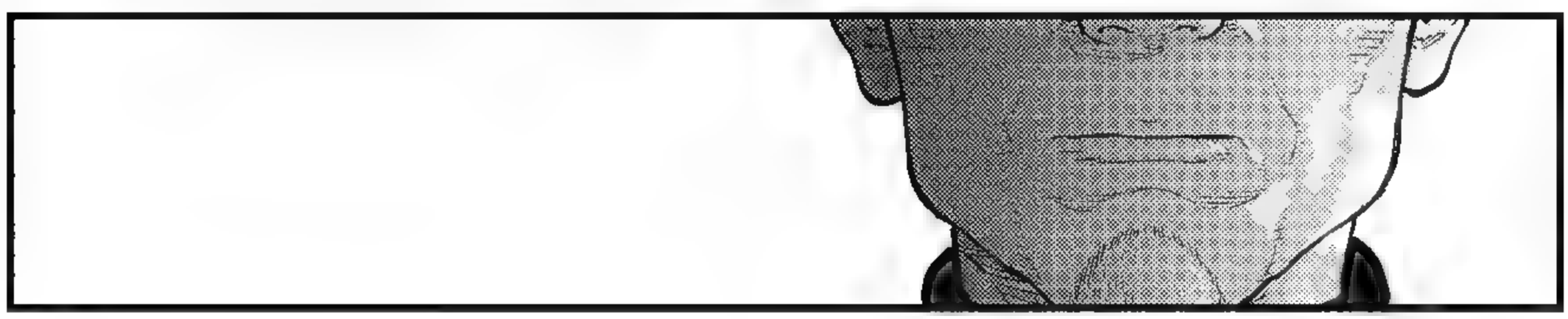
WHICH PROSTHETIC WILL YOU BE WEARING TO THE CEREMONY?
SH-SHALL I GET AN OUTFIT TOGETHER?
CREAK

I'LL BE GOING IN MY OWN BODY.

WHAT BETTER WAY TO SHOW YOUR COMMITMENT TO FAIRNESS AND JUSTICE?
MIGHT I SUGGEST *LIBRA?*
OOH! YES! I LOVE IT!


AND BESIDES...
B-BUT...!
WE'VE SEEN HOW *CAPABLE* MY SECURITY DETAIL IS.
HUH?!

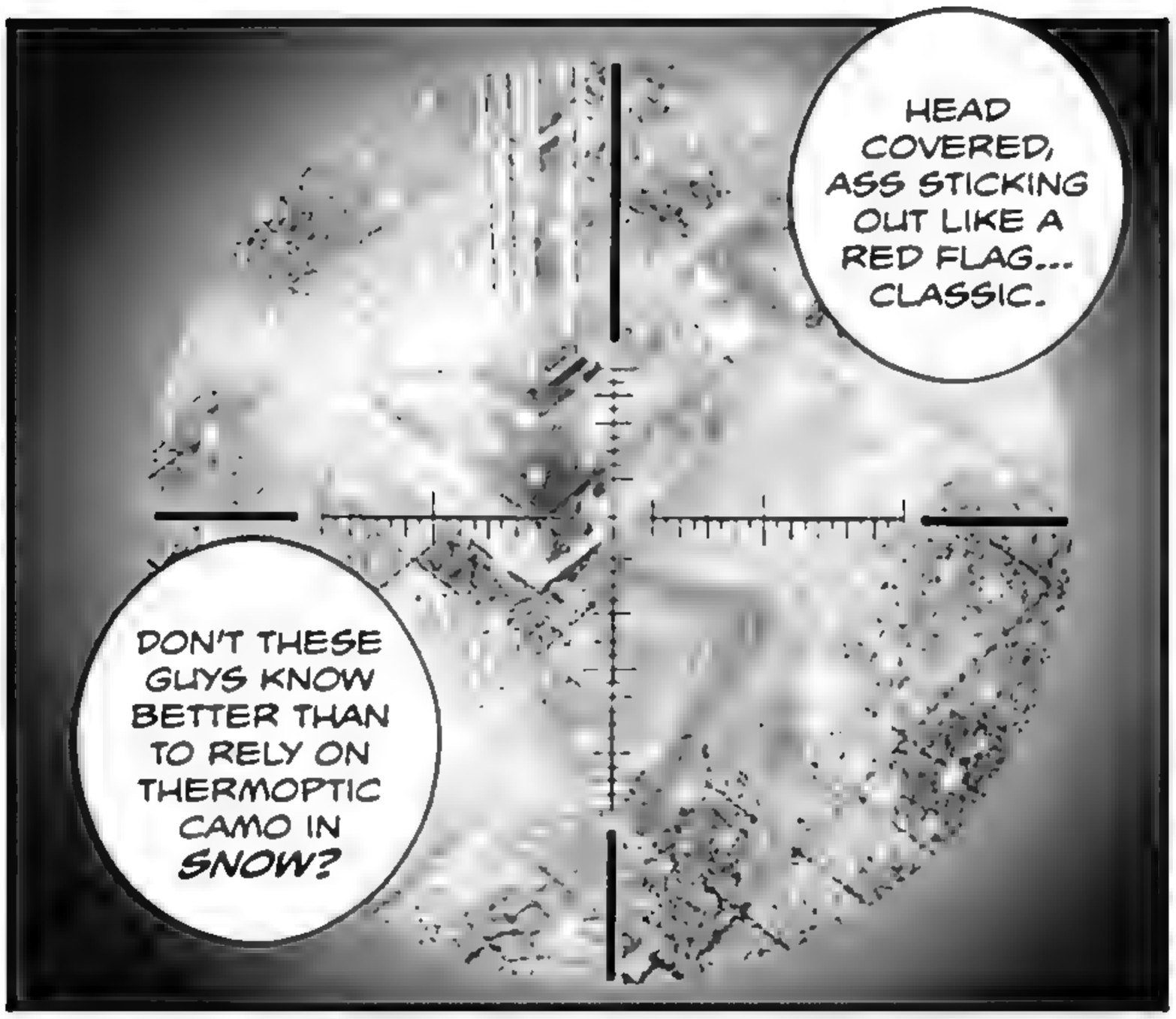
...WHO KNOWS WHAT DANGERS COULD BE LURKING BY MY BEDSIDE?



FLAP
FLAP

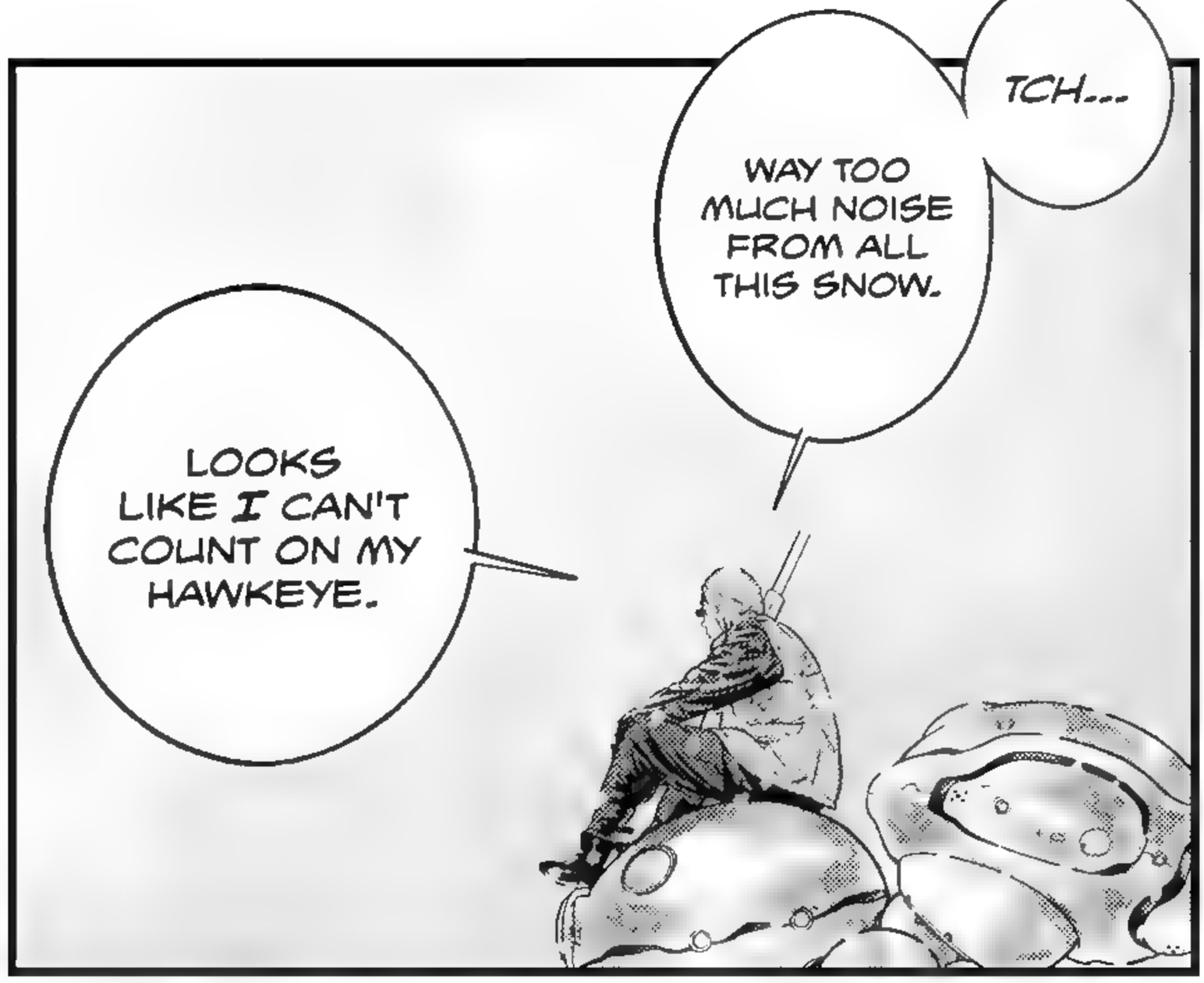
THWIP

BZZRT

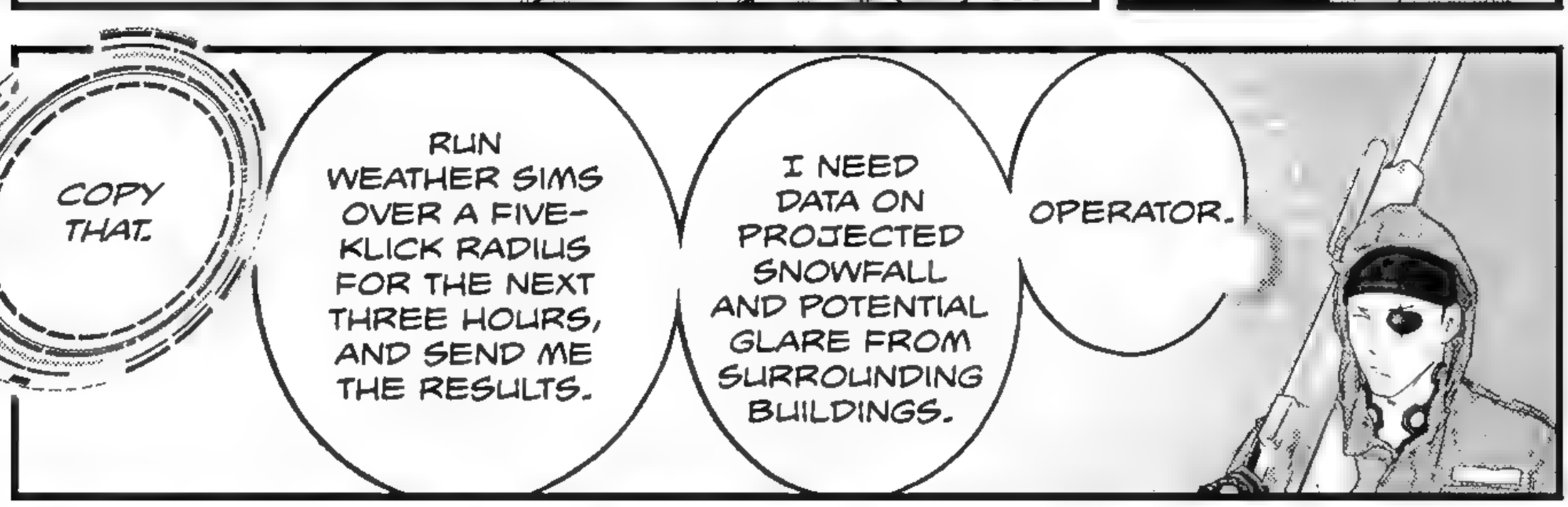

HEAD COVERED, ASS STICKING OUT LIKE A RED FLAG... CLASSIC.
DON'T THESE GUYS KNOW BETTER THAN TO RELY ON THERMOPTIC CAMO IN *SNOW?*

ABSOLUTELY PATHETIC.

HOW DO THEY EXPECT TO KEEP THEIR PRINCESS SAFE LIKE THIS...?


LOOKS LIKE I CAN'T COUNT ON MY HAWKEYE.
WAY TOO MUCH NOISE FROM ALL THIS SNOW.
TCH...

KLICK


COPY THAT.
RUN WEATHER SIMS OVER A FIVE-KLICK RADIUS FOR THE NEXT THREE HOURS, AND SEND ME THE RESULTS.
I NEED DATA ON PROJECTED SNOWFALL AND POTENTIAL GLARE FROM SURROUNDING BUILDINGS.
OPERATOR.

SOMETHING TELLS ME THIS STORM'S JUST GETTING STARTED.

SAITO! I CAUGHT A WHIFF OF OUR BEAR!

DUNNO WHAT WENT DOWN, BUT THIS PLACE IS DEFINITELY OUT OF THE WAY.

HE'S AVOIDING CROWDS, JUST LIKE WE THOUGHT.

AND KEEPING WELL AWAY FROM ANY SURVEILLANCE CAMS, I'LL BET.

IN FACT... I SMELL ***BLOOD*** IN HERE, TOO.

SNF SNF

YOU SURE?

IT'S A PUBLIC RESTROOM NEAR THE INAUGURATION PLAZA.

LOOKS LIKE HE TRIED TO RINSE THIS PLACE DOWN, BUT THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. IT'S HIM.

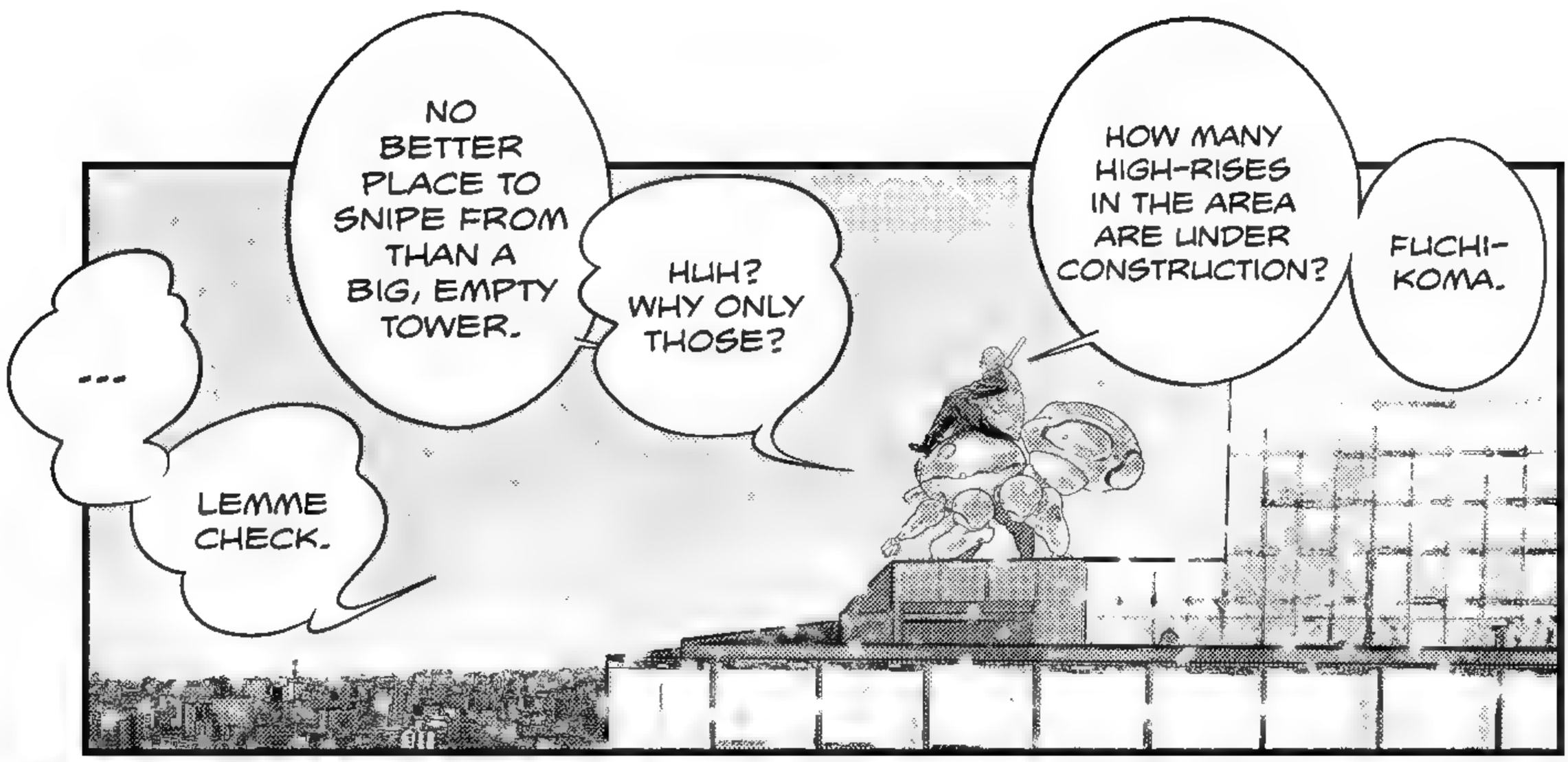
MAYBE HE FOUND A NICE HOLE AND CRAWLED INSIDE TO HIBER–

CAN IT, AZUMA. I JUST GOT AN IDEA.

CAT

FAT

DAMN IT... WHERE'S HE HIDING?


...
LEMME CHECK.
NO BETTER PLACE TO SNIPE FROM THAN A BIG, EMPTY TOWER.
HUH? WHY ONLY THOSE?
HOW MANY HIGH-RISES IN THE AREA ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION?
FUCHI-KOMA.

ONLY ONE. 19TH STREET, F BLOCK.

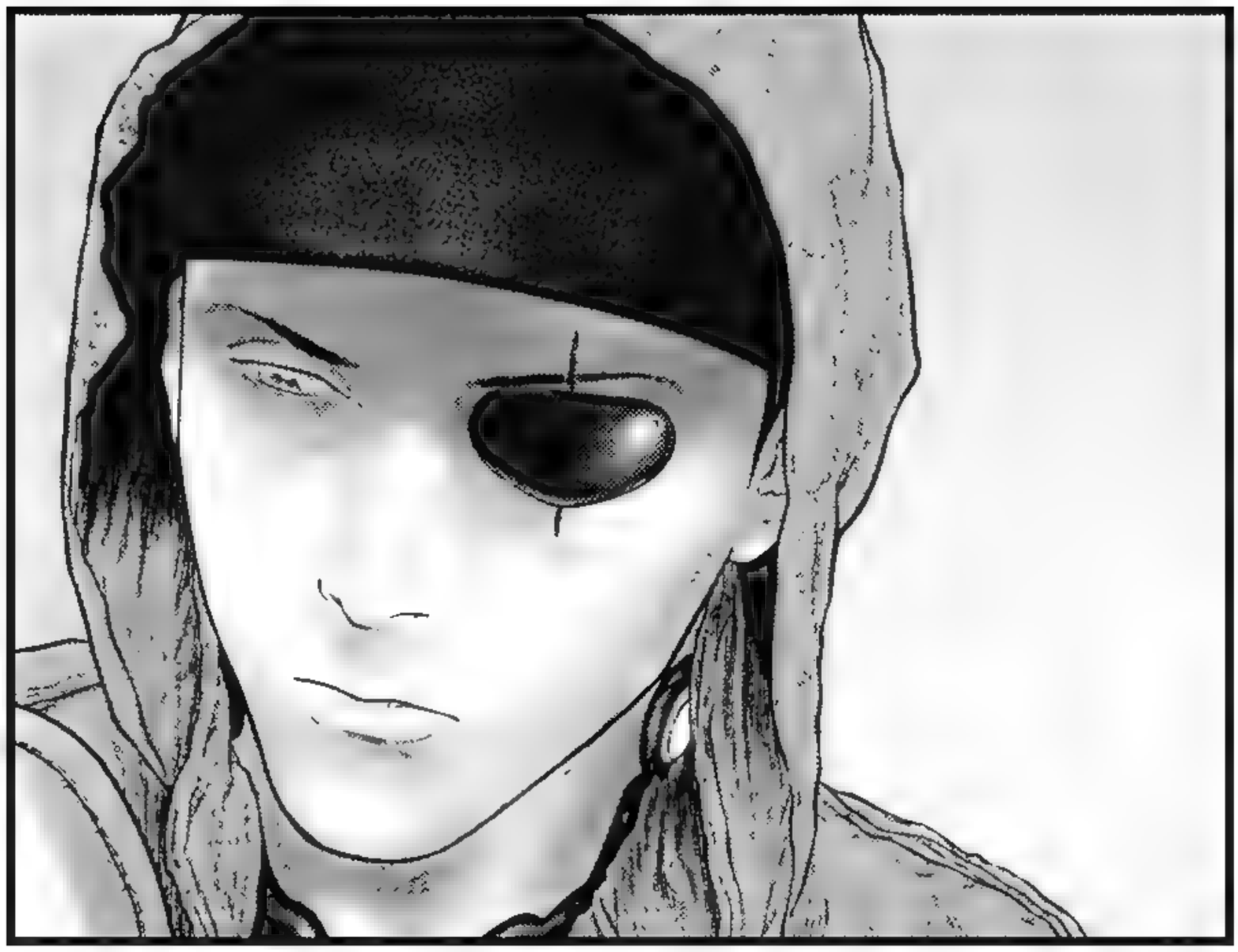
I FOUND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR!
TICK TOCK, TICK TOCK...
TNK TNK
HOW MANY OF THEM HAVE EYES ON THE VENUE?

HEY, AZUMA...

YOU WANT ME TO GO ALL THE WAY UP *THERE?!*

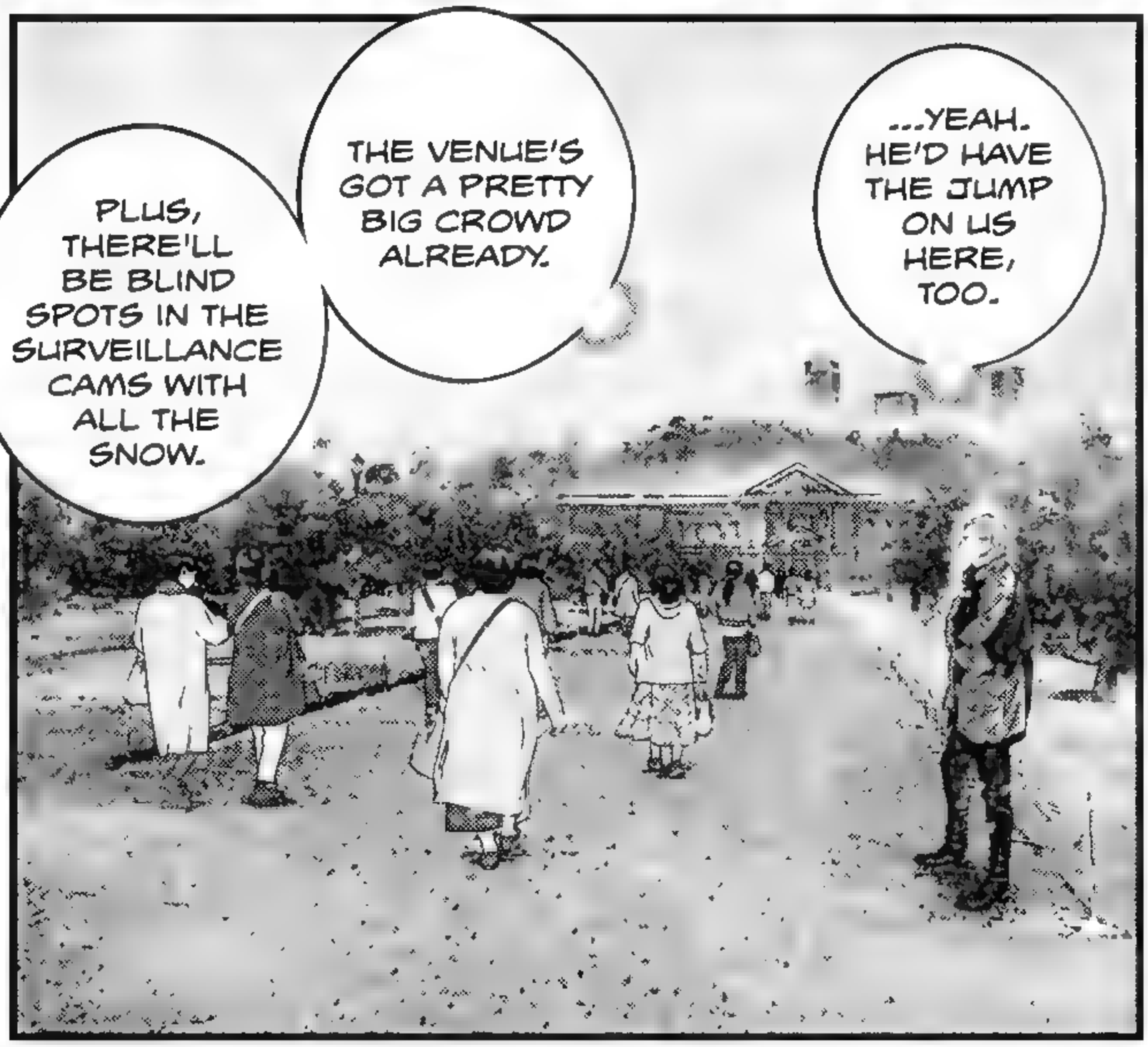
HAVE YOU SEEN HOW MANY FLOORS THIS THING HAS?!

THERE ISN'T EVEN A WORKING ELEVATOR!



WHAT'S IT GONNA BE, HUH?

WHERE ARE YOU GONNA MAKE YOUR PLAY?


PLUS, THERE'LL BE BLIND SPOTS IN THE SURVEILLANCE CAMS WITH ALL THE SNOW.
THE VENUE'S GOT A PRETTY BIG CROWD ALREADY.
...YEAH. HE'D HAVE THE JUMP ON US HERE, TOO.

BUSTLE
BUSTLE

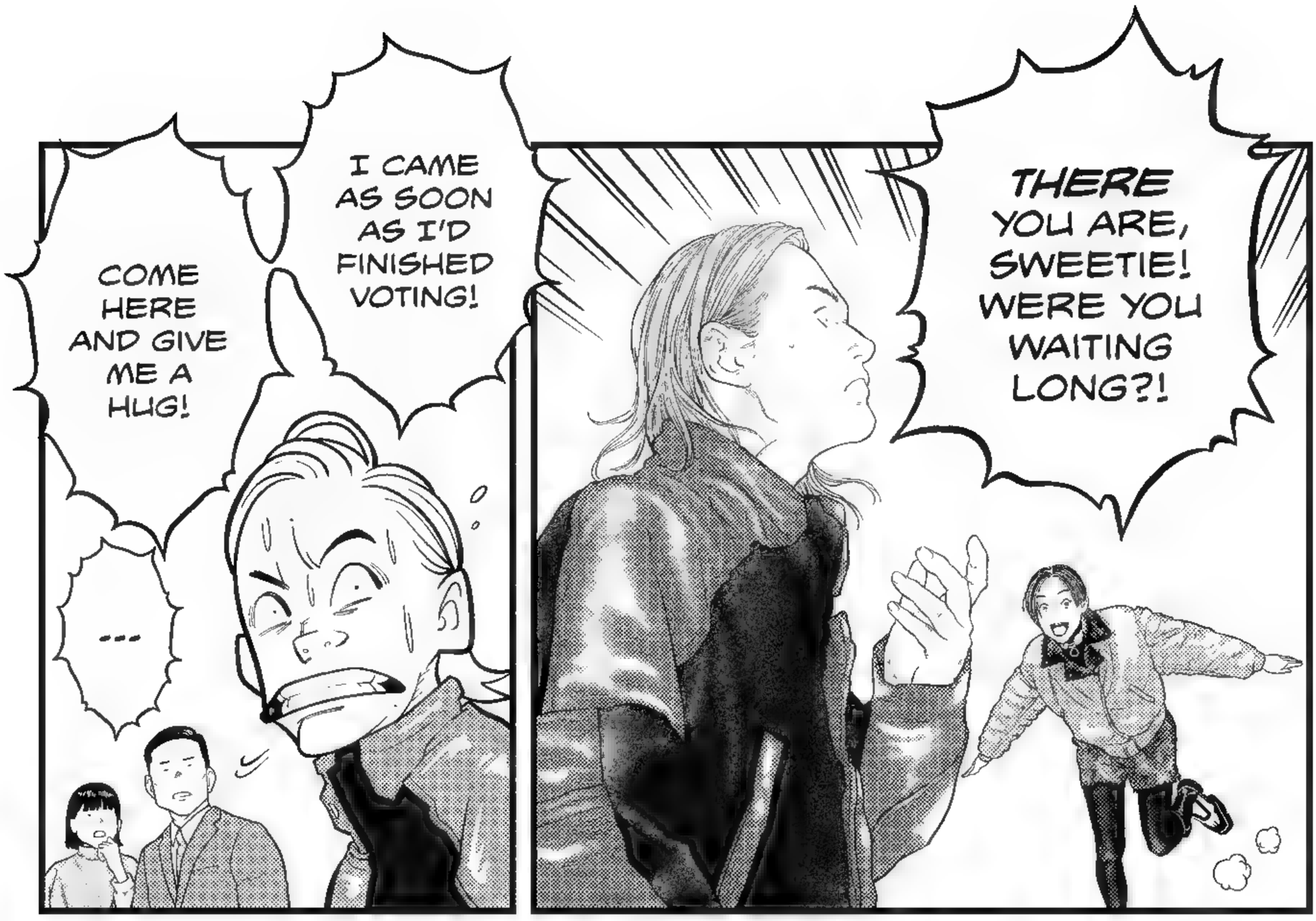
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SHORE UP WHEREVER WE CAN AND HOPE IT'S ENOUGH.

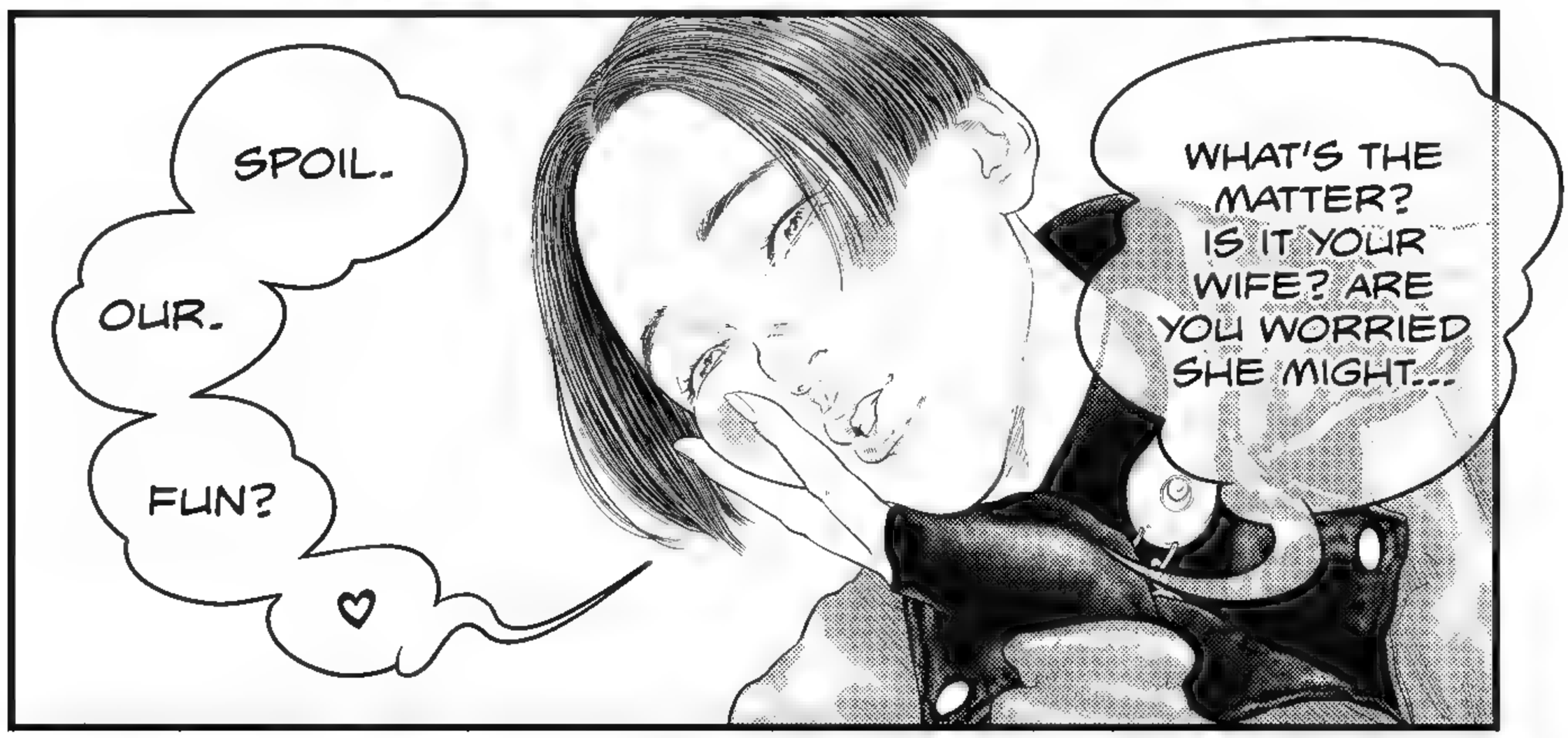
BUSTLE

BUSTLE

...PLEASE DO. WE'LL NEED IT.

THE SNOW'S AN OMEN, HUH? SO WHERE *IS* THIS BEAR?


COME HERE AND GIVE ME A HUG!
I CAME AS SOON AS I'D FINISHED VOTING!
...
THERE YOU ARE, SWEETIE! WERE YOU WAITING LONG?!

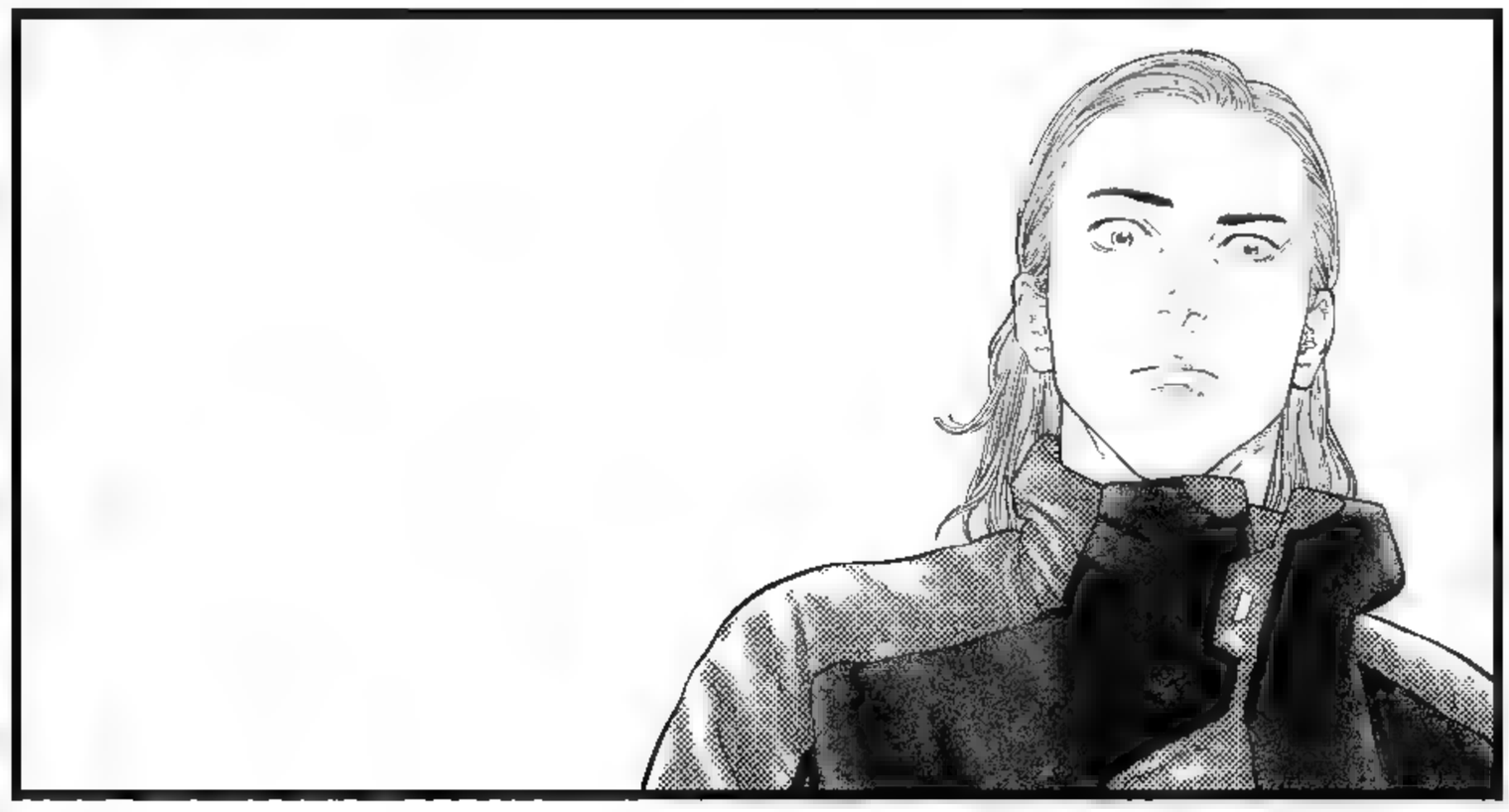

SPOIL.
OUR.
FUN? ♡
WHAT'S THE MATTER? IS IT YOUR WIFE? ARE YOU WORRIED SHE MIGHT...

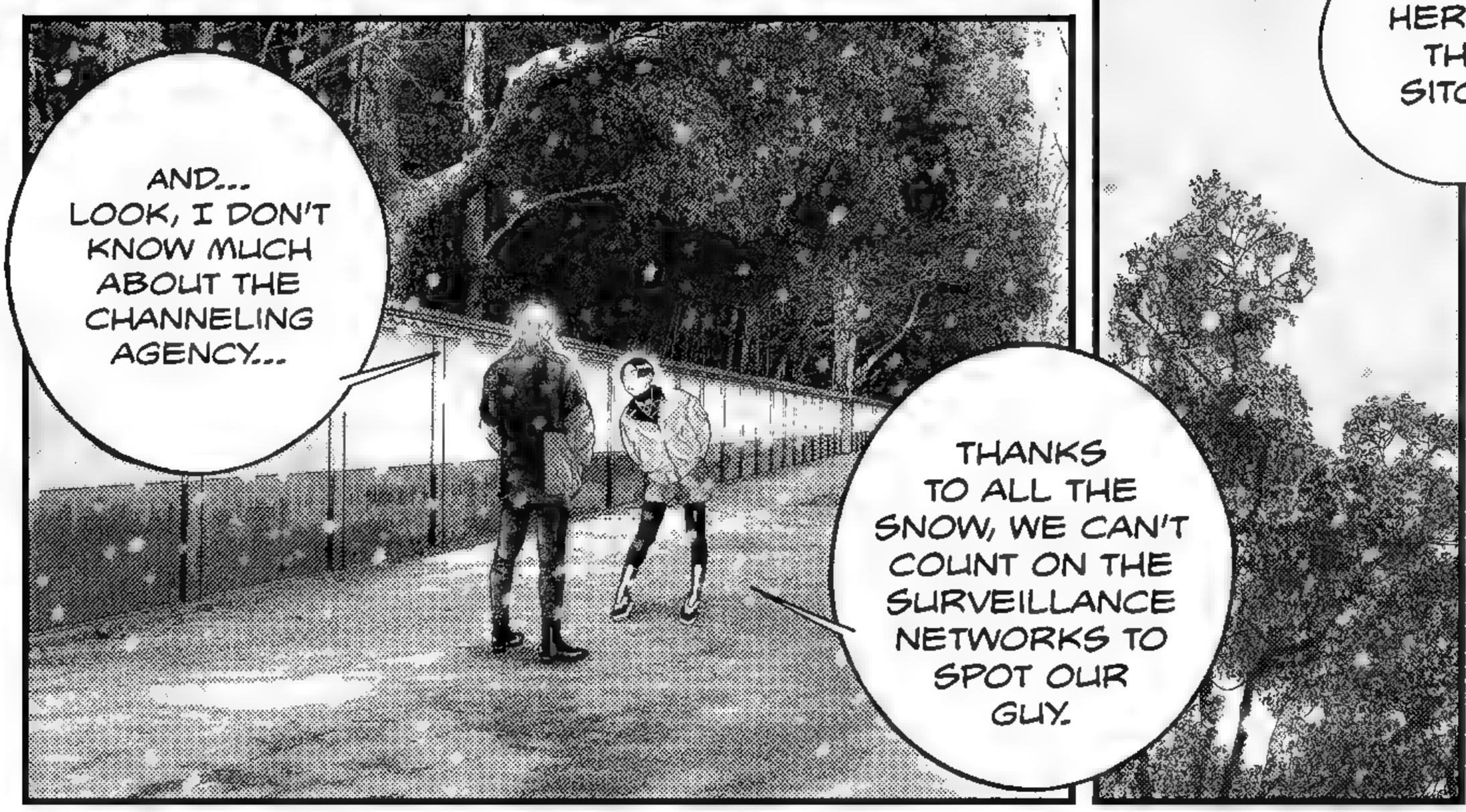
WHAT'RE YOU...?! UGH! C'MERE!
OOH! ♡ YOU'RE SO ROUGH TODAY!

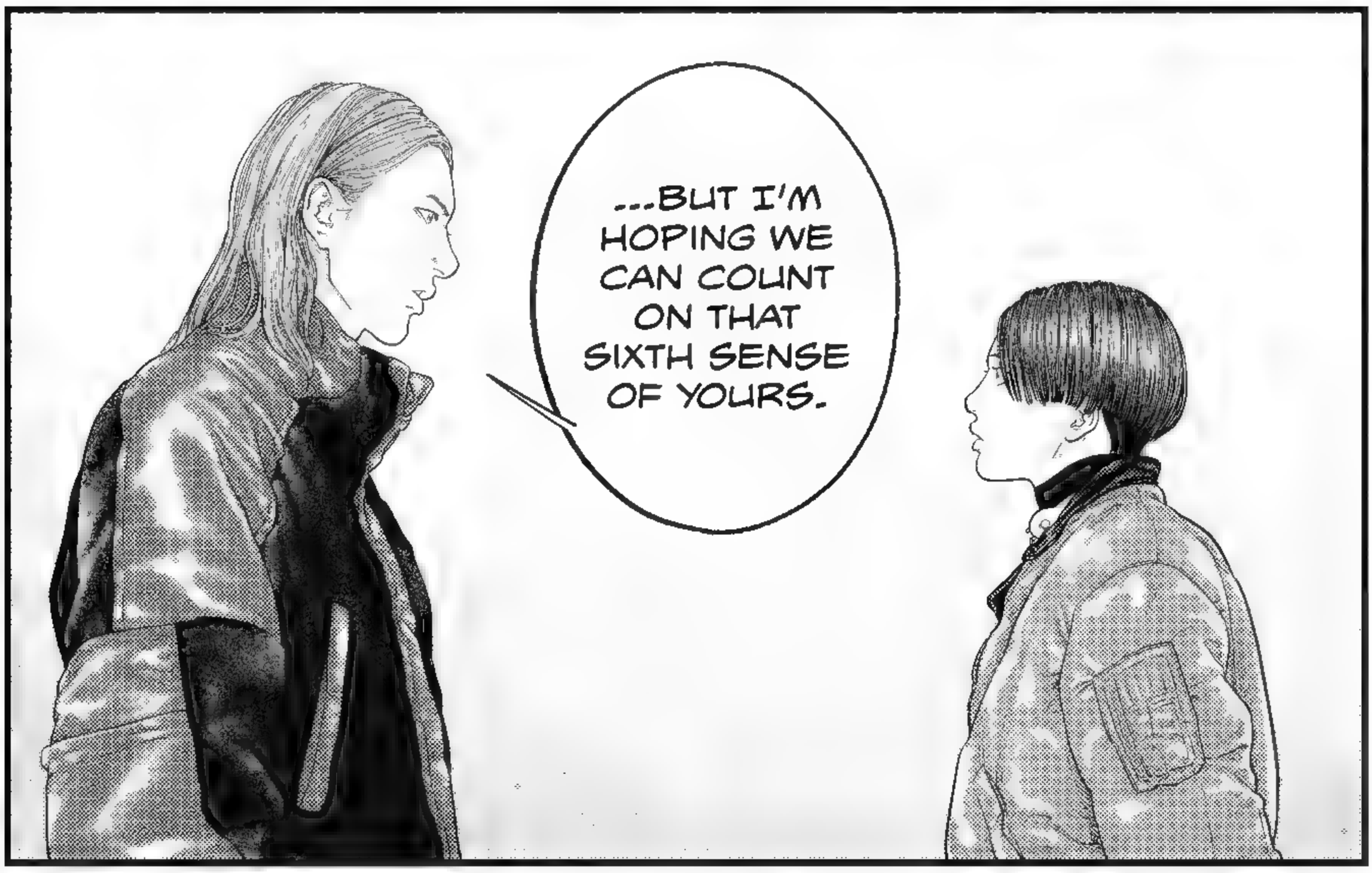
...!
OH, BABY! HOLD ME!
WHISPER WHISPER

AWWW, DON'T BE LIKE THAT.
...
NI
THAT WAS OVER THE MINUTE WE LEFT TOWADA!
YOU WENT TO ALL THAT TROUBLE SETTING UP OUR COVER STORY, AND NOW YOU WON'T EVEN PLAY ALONG.
GLOMP
ARE YOU DUMPING ME?!
NOT TO MENTION, THE CHIEF SAYS THAT SECTION 9 NEEDS ME.
WELL, I COULDN'T LEAVE YOU ALL ON YOUR OWN. YOU'D MISS ME!
HE HE!
OH, AND...
SO YOU DECIDED TO STAY ON, HUH?

...I FOUND MY CONFIDENCE.




AND... LOOK, I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE CHANNELING AGENCY...
THANKS TO ALL THE SNOW, WE CAN'T COUNT ON THE SURVEILLANCE NETWORKS TO SPOT OUR GUY.
HERE'S THE SITCH.


...BUT I'M HOPING WE CAN COUNT ON THAT SIXTH SENSE OF YOURS.

THINK YOU'RE UP FOR IT?

ARE YOU KIDDING? I WAS *BORN* FOR THIS.

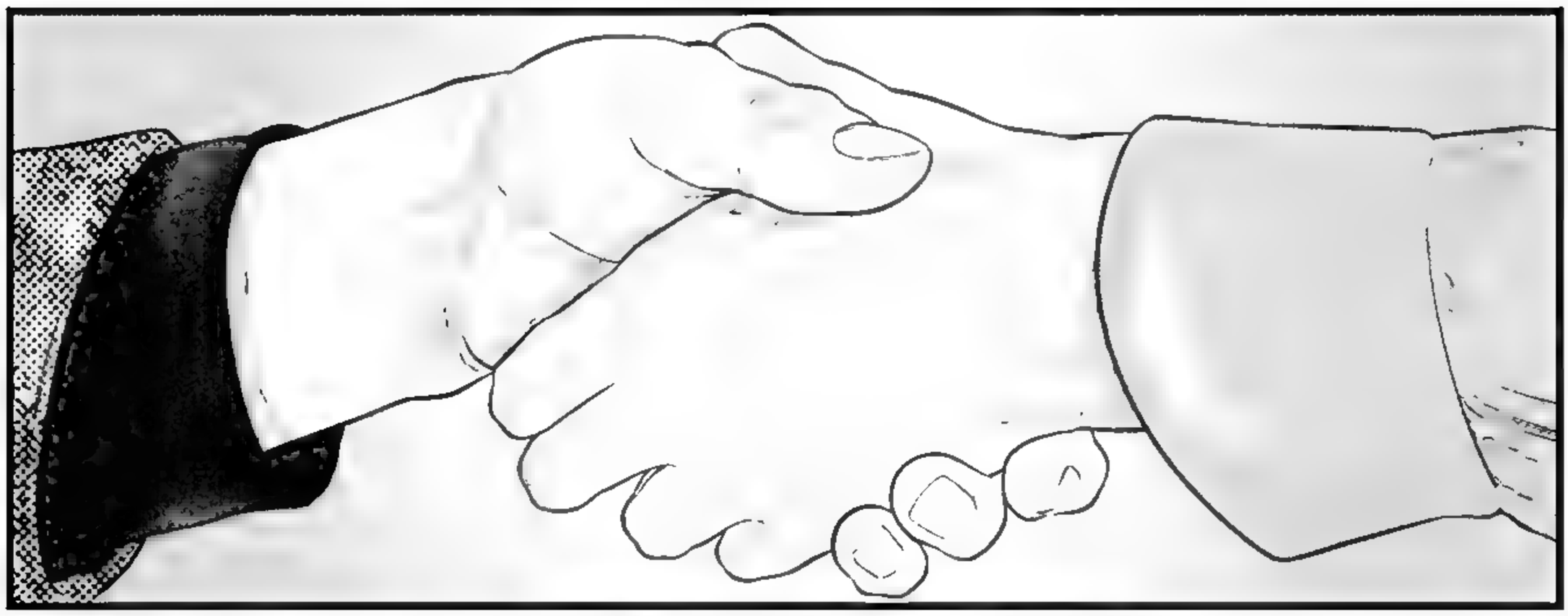
I HAVEN'T KEPT MYSELF PURE ALL THESE YEARS FOR NOTHING!

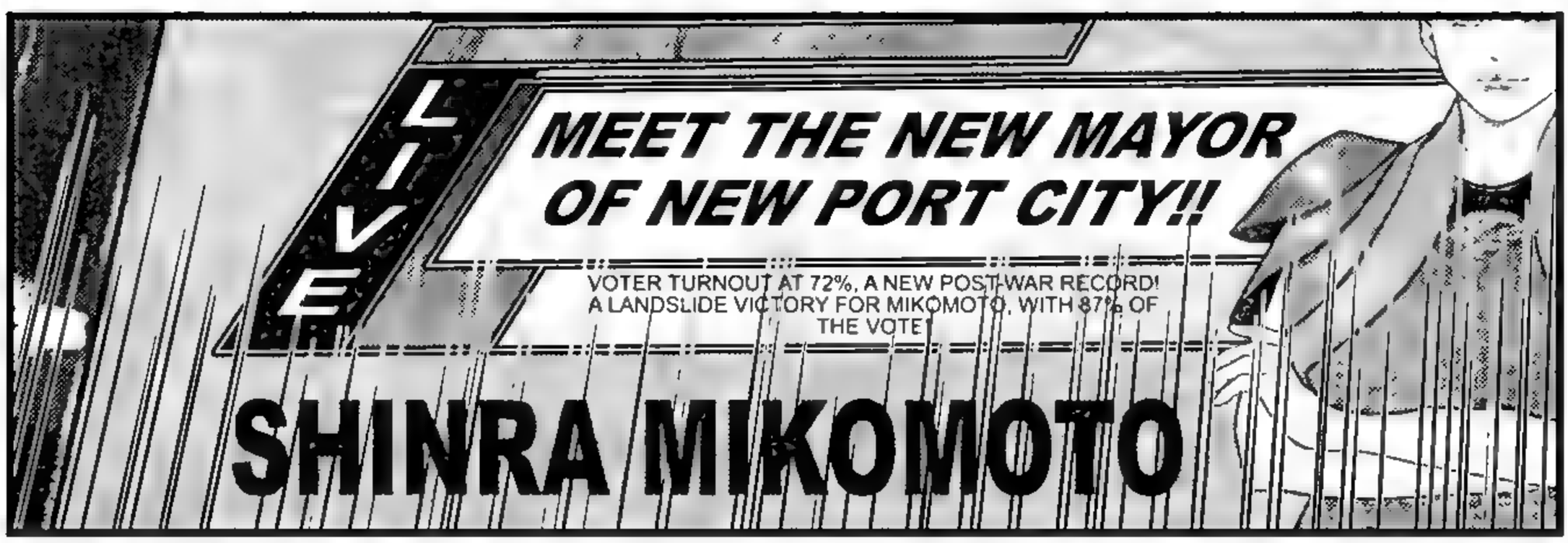
YOU GOT IT!

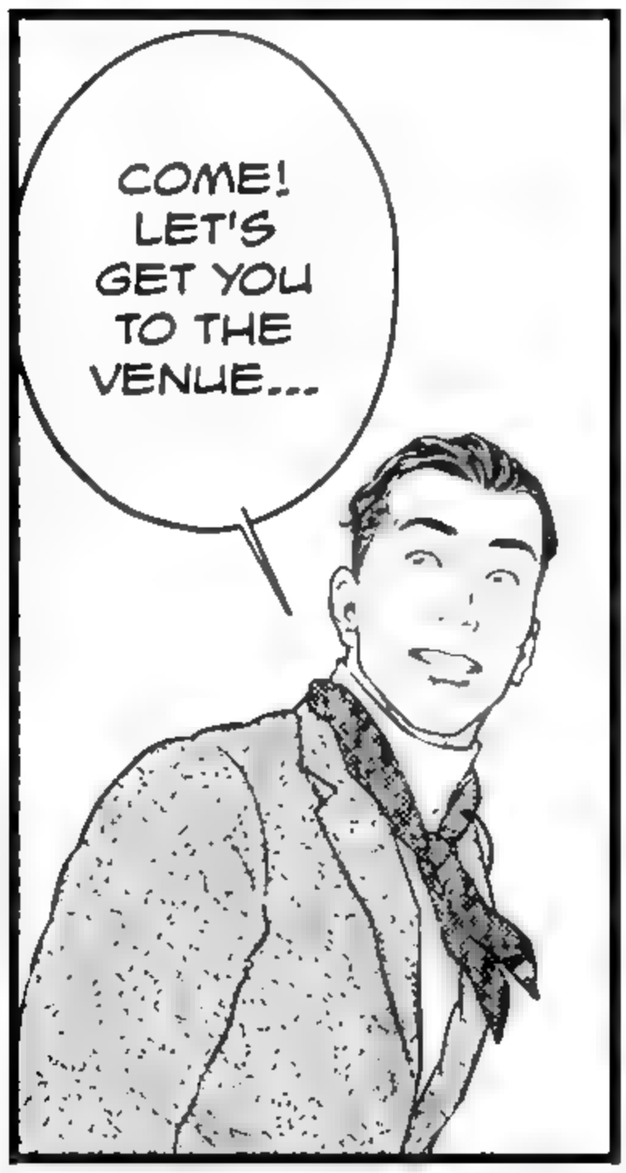
RUFFLE

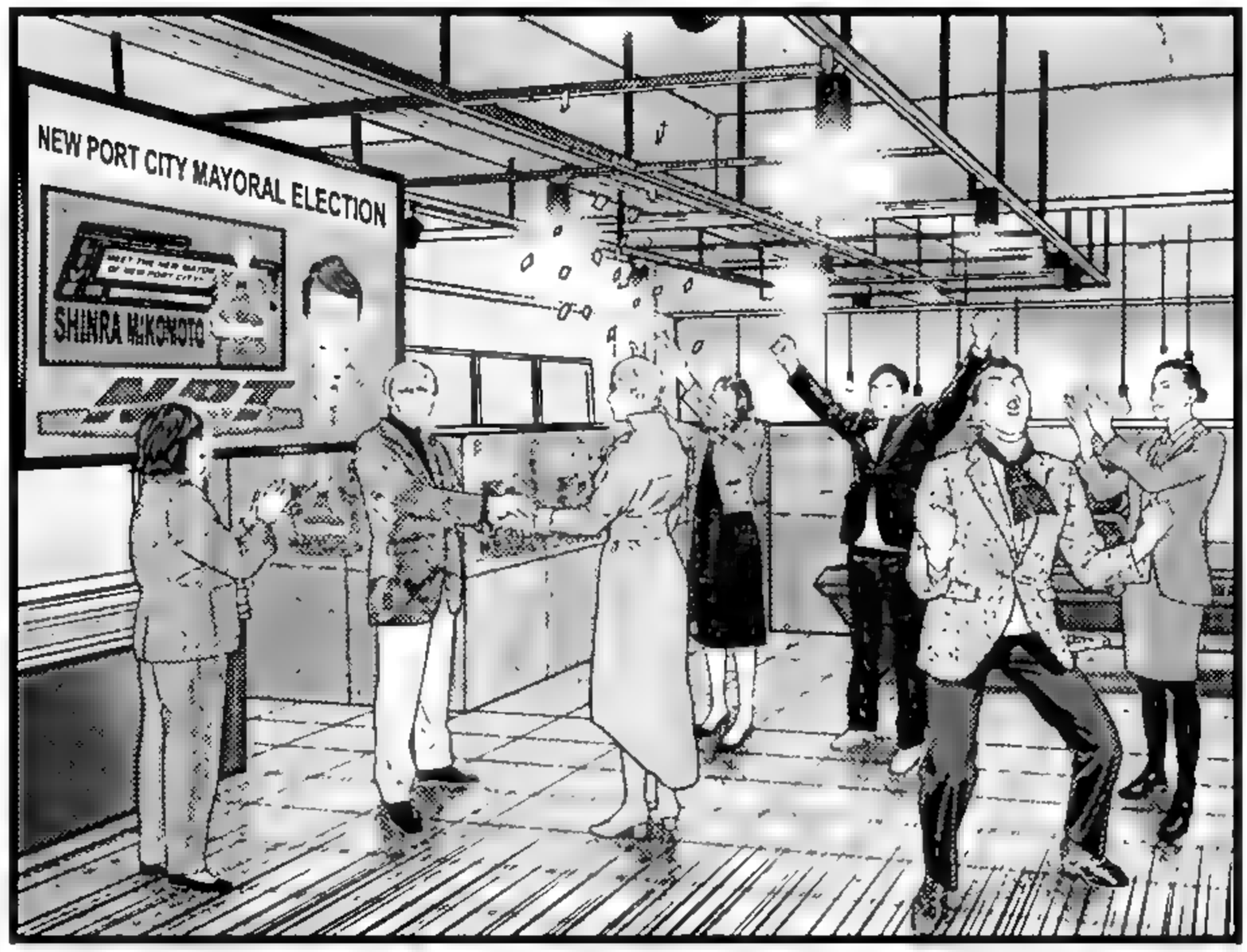
THAT'S WHAT I WANNA HEAR!

LET'S GO CATCH OURSELVES A BEAR.

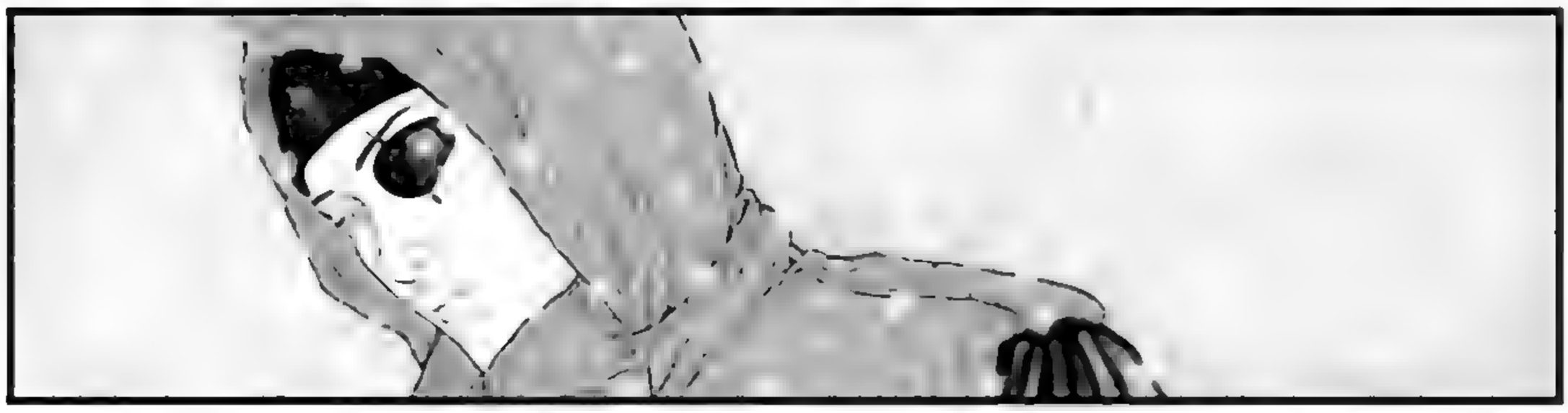



LIVE
MEET THE NEW MAYOR OF NEW PORT CITY!!
VOTER TURNOUT AT 72%, A NEW POST-WAR RECORD! A LANDSLIDE VICTORY FOR MIKOMOTO, WITH 87% OF THE VOTE!
SHINRA MIKOMOTO


COME! LET'S GET YOU TO THE VENUE...


NEW PORT CITY MAYORAL ELECTION
SHINRA MIKOMOTO

...MAYOR MIKOMOTO!



new-port

YES. LET'S GO.

I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE PLANNING TO GIVE THE ACCEPTANCE SPEECH IN PERSON...?

I'M GETTING A BIT TIRED OF HEARING MY OPPONENT CALL ME A COWARD...

...NOT TO MENTION, I HAVE COMPLETE FAITH IN YOUR TEAM.

I SEE...

ALL RIGHT. WE'LL MAKE SURE THE VENUE IS SECURE.

I KNOW I CAN COUNT ON YOU.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR VICTORY.

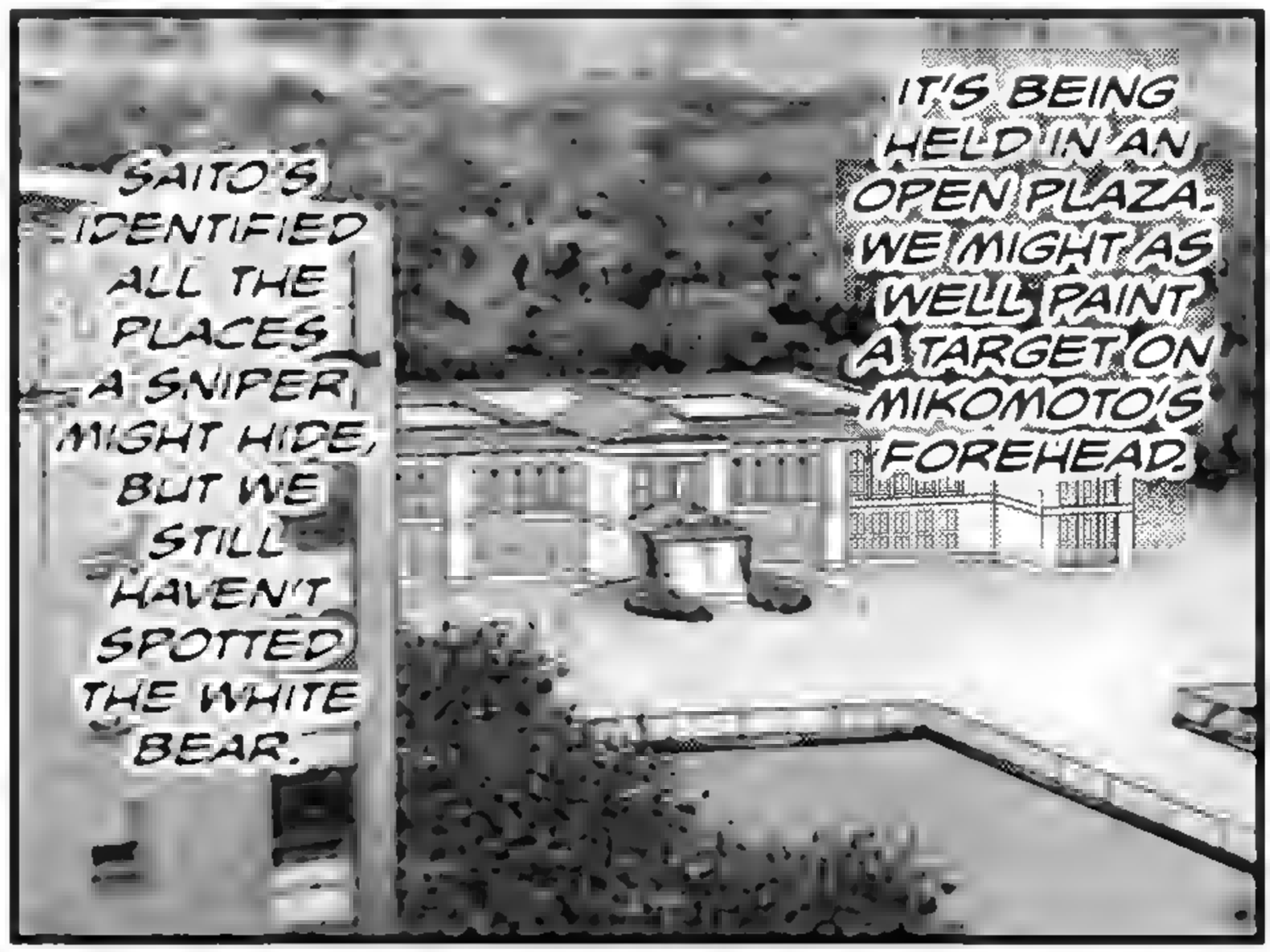
THANK YOU, MISTER TOGUSA.

21 OUTSMART

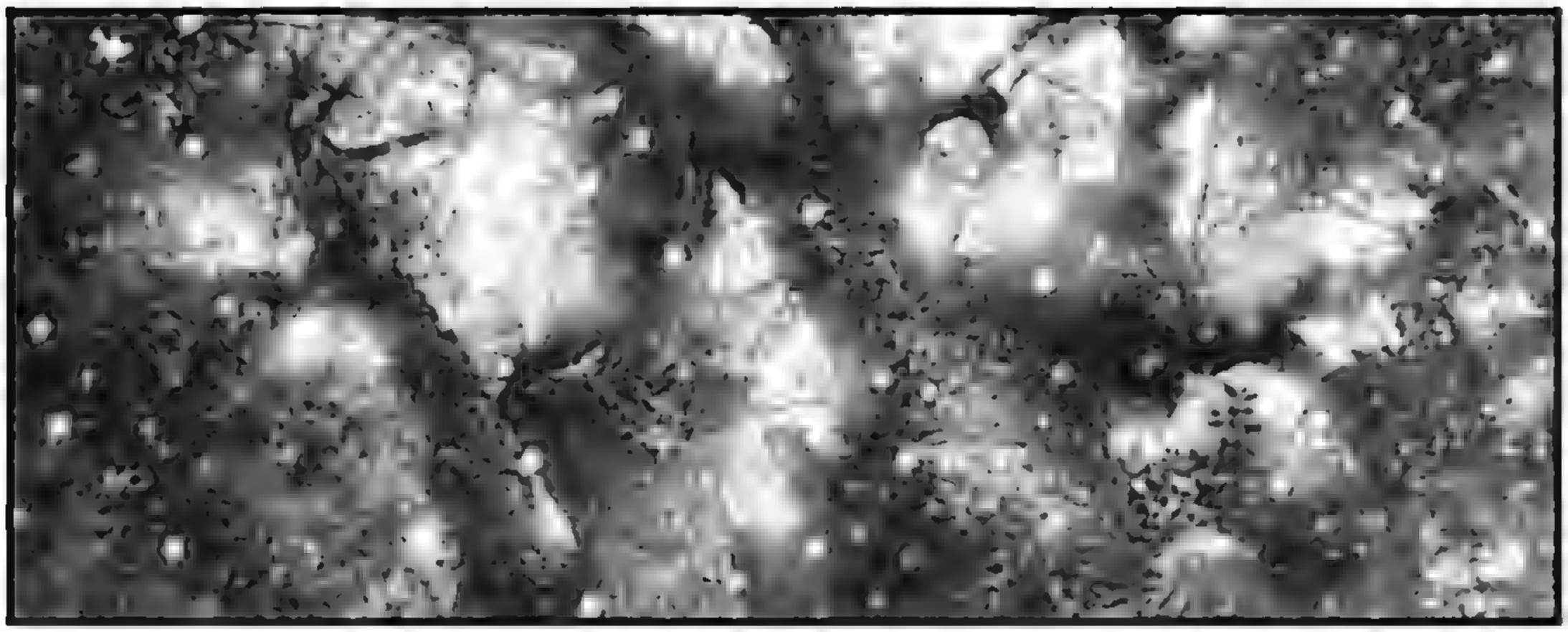
HUH?!
BY THE WAY... I WAS THINKING, ONCE THIS IS OVER, MAYBE WE COULD GET DINNER. JUST THE TWO OF US?
HOO, BOY...
TALK TO YOU AGAIN SOON.
GREAT.
WOW, UH... I'D LOVE TO.

DAMN IT.
THIS IS OUR CITY. WE HAD THE ADVANTAGE UNTIL THIS FREAK SNOWSTORM ROLLED IN.

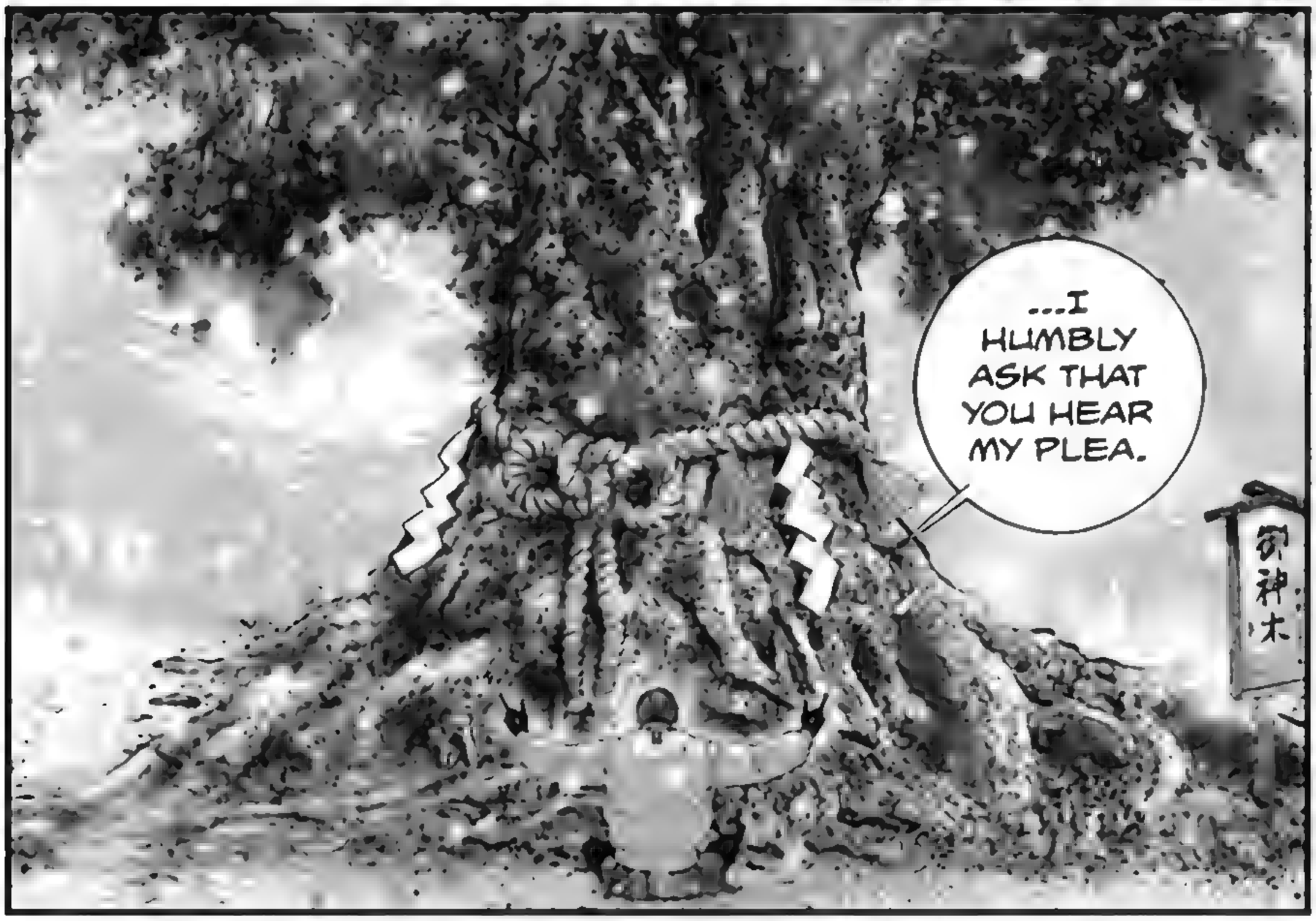
WE'VE GOT ROUGHLY FIVE HOURS UNTIL THE CEREMONY.

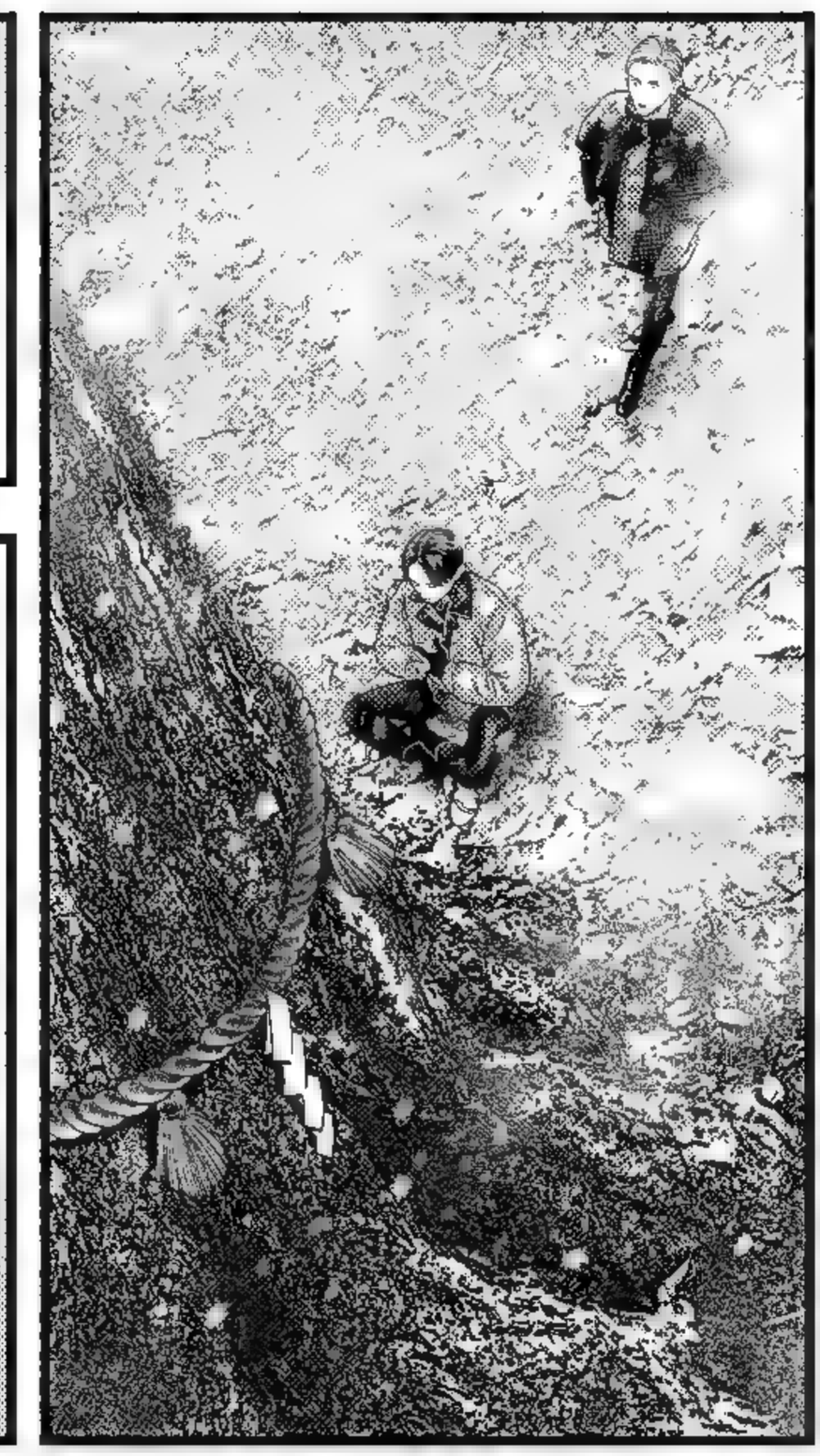

SAITO'S IDENTIFIED ALL THE PLACES A SNIPER MIGHT HIDE, BUT WE STILL HAVEN'T SPOTTED THE WHITE BEAR.
IT'S BEING HELD IN AN OPEN PLAZA. WE MIGHT AS WELL PAINT A TARGET ON MIKOMOTO'S FOREHEAD.

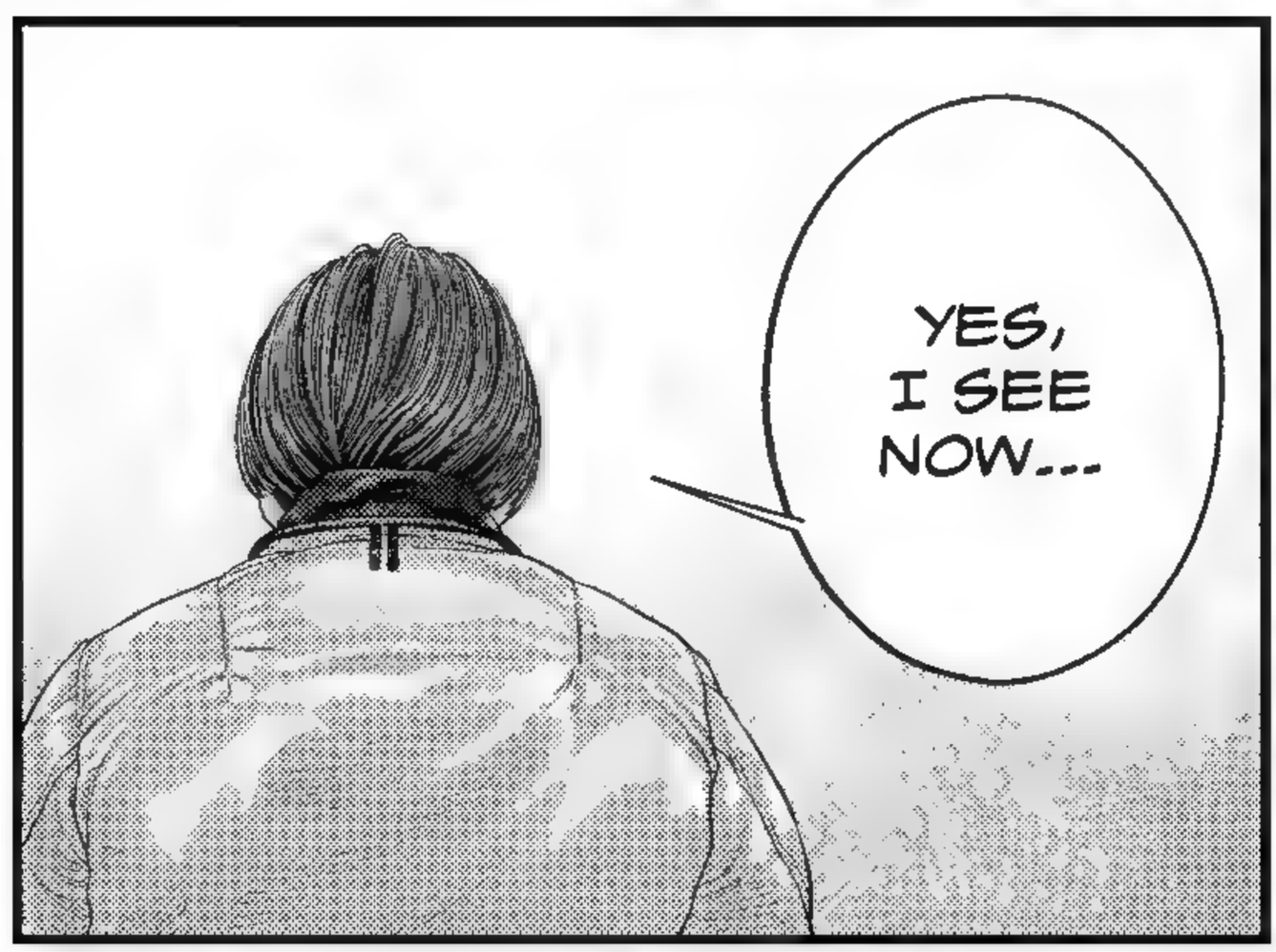
IF WE DON'T FIND THE WHITE BEAR BEFORE MIKOMOTO TAKES THE STAGE, IT'S BASICALLY GAME OVER.



*SIGN: 350-YEAR-OLD SACRED TREE.






YES, I SEE NOW...

TOGUSA...

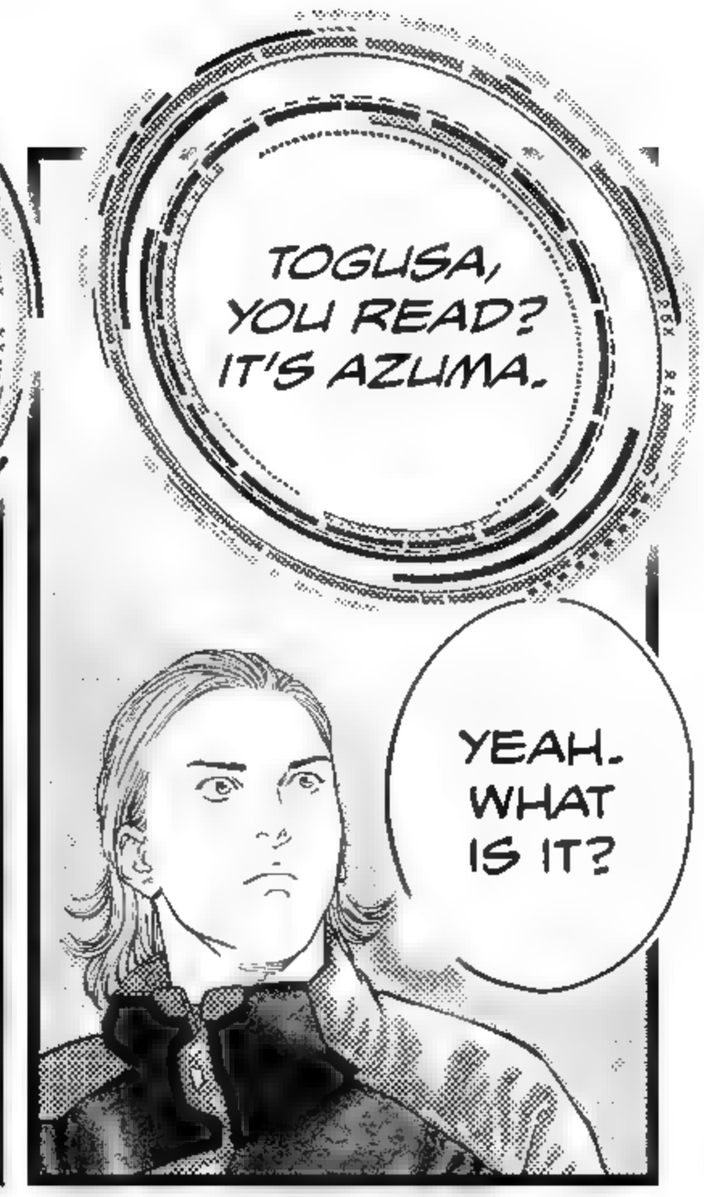
WHERE IS HE?!
THE WHITE BEAR?!

...YOU'VE BEEN CHEATING ON YOUR WIFE.

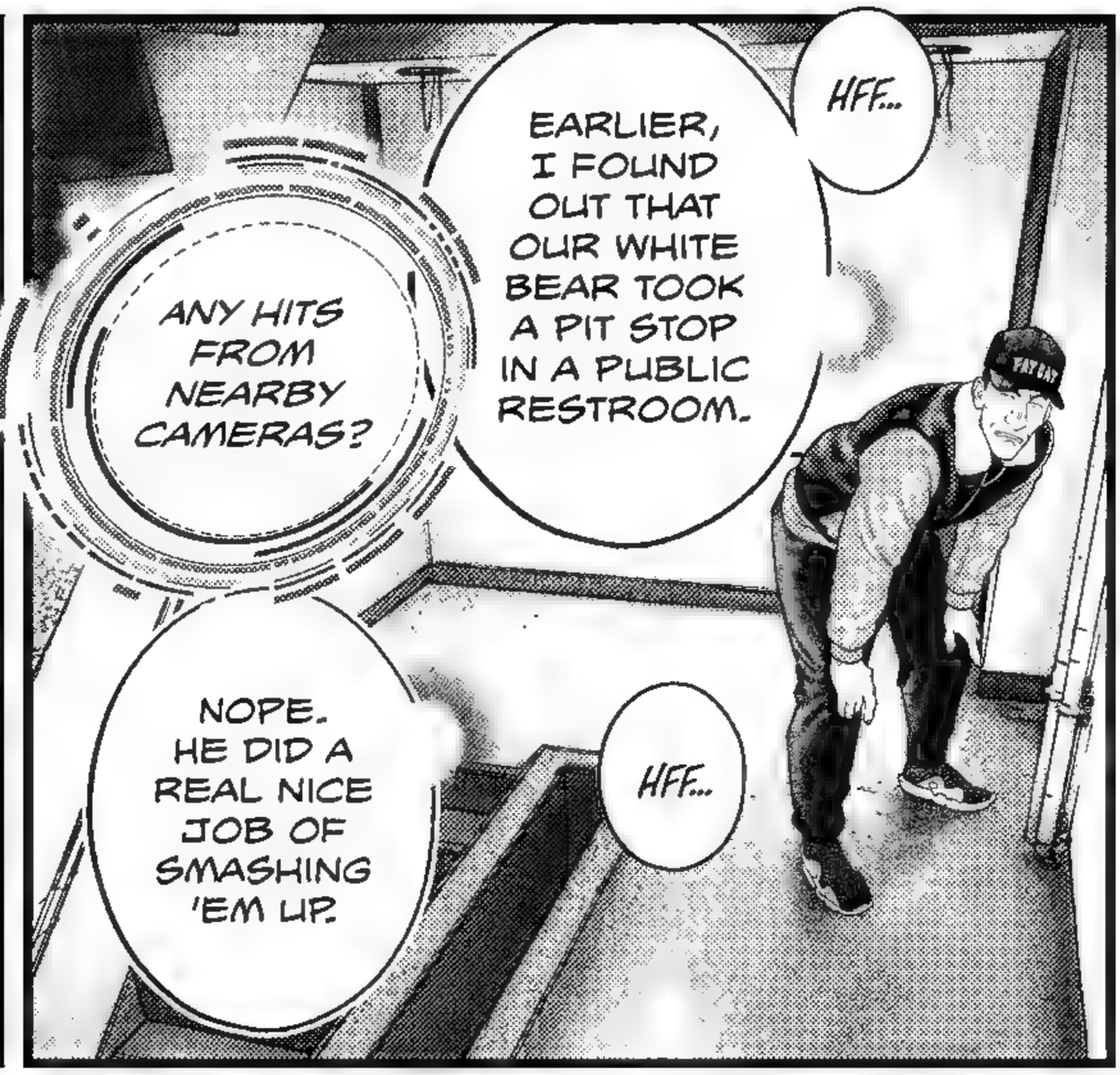
W— WAIT!
GAH!
NOT FAIR!
HEY, UH, CHIEF? ANY CHANCE WE COULD STILL PROCESS THAT RESIGNATION TSUNAGI REQUESTED?
GREAT. LET'S PUSH IT THROUGH.
I'M PICKING UP THE AURAS OF AT LEAST A *FEW* WOMEN WHO HAVE IT OUT FOR YOU.
HRMPH!

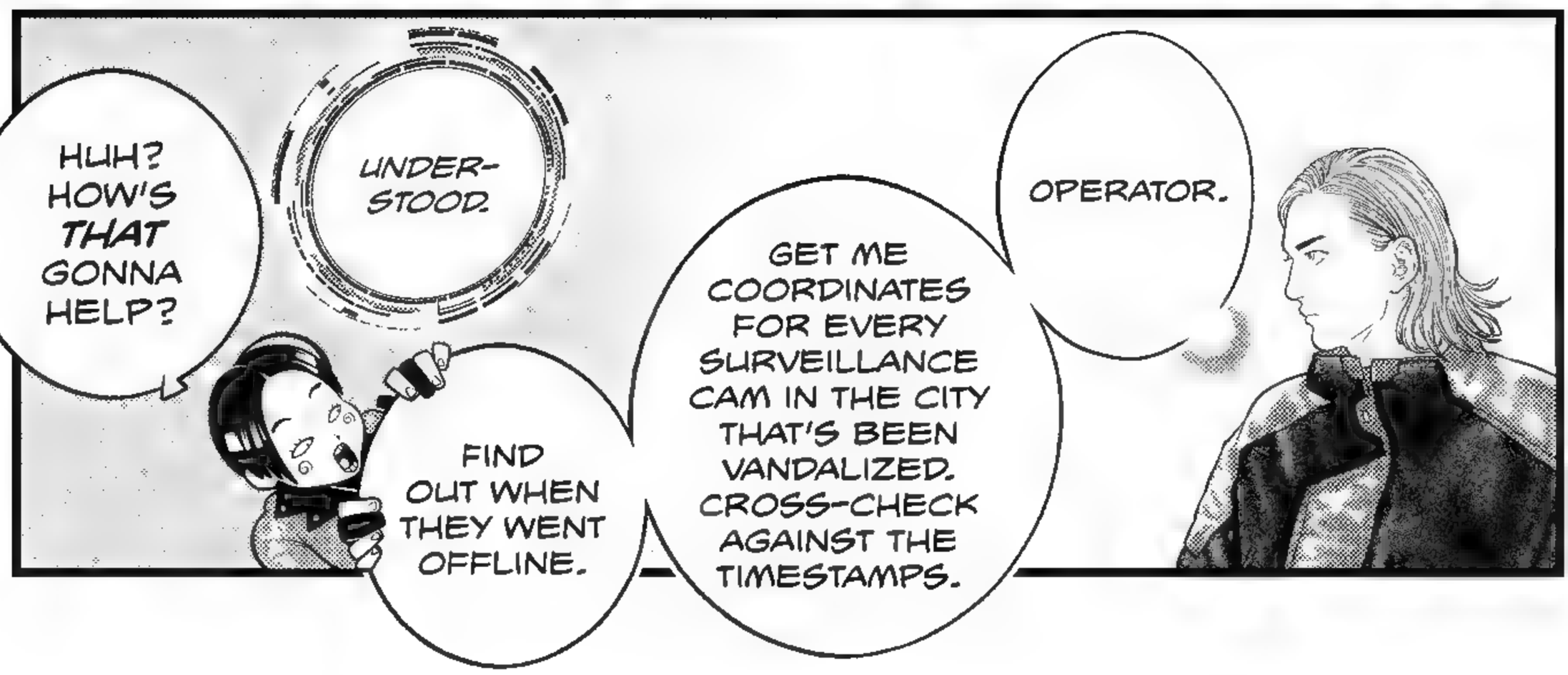
SOMEWHERE REALLY QUIET, WITH A STENCH THAT MAKES YOU WANT TO GAG.
...IS A VAGUE SENSE OF SOME DARK, CRAMPED PLACE.
ALL I CAN FEEL...
HMPH... IT'S SO COLD OUT, I'M BARELY GETTING A WHISPER FROM THE SACRED TREE.

HUH? WHAT ABOUT A CAN?
THE CAN?
SOUNDS LIKE THE ROOKIE'S SEEIN' THE CAN.

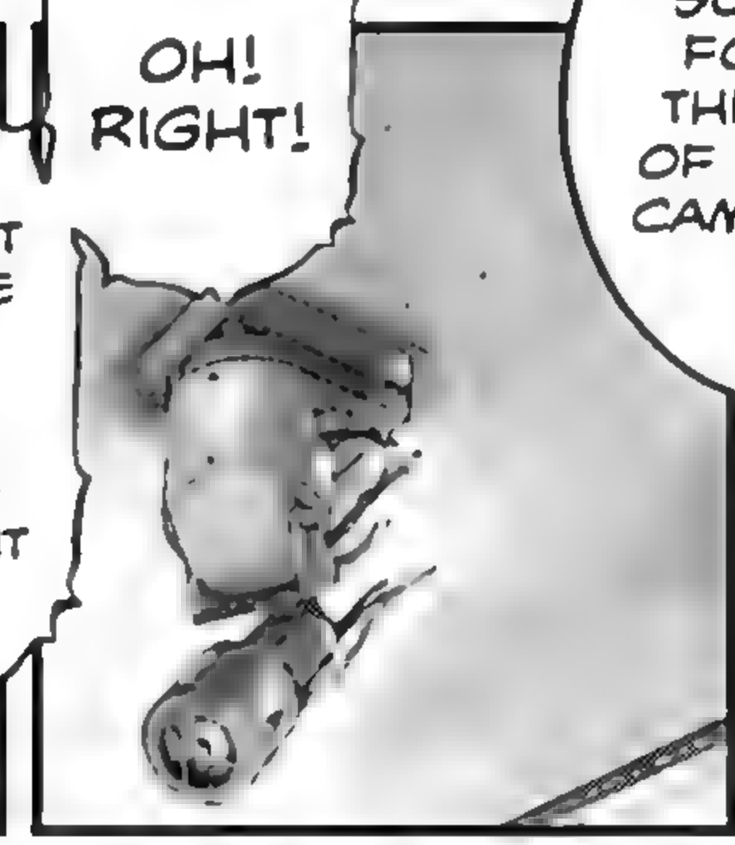

TOGUSA, YOU READ? IT'S AZUMA.
YEAH. WHAT IS IT?

GUESS HE DOESN'T LIKE THE THOUGHT OF SOMEONE SPYIN' WHILE HE TAKES A—
SHUT IT, AZUMA. I JUST GOT AN IDEA.
FAT CAT

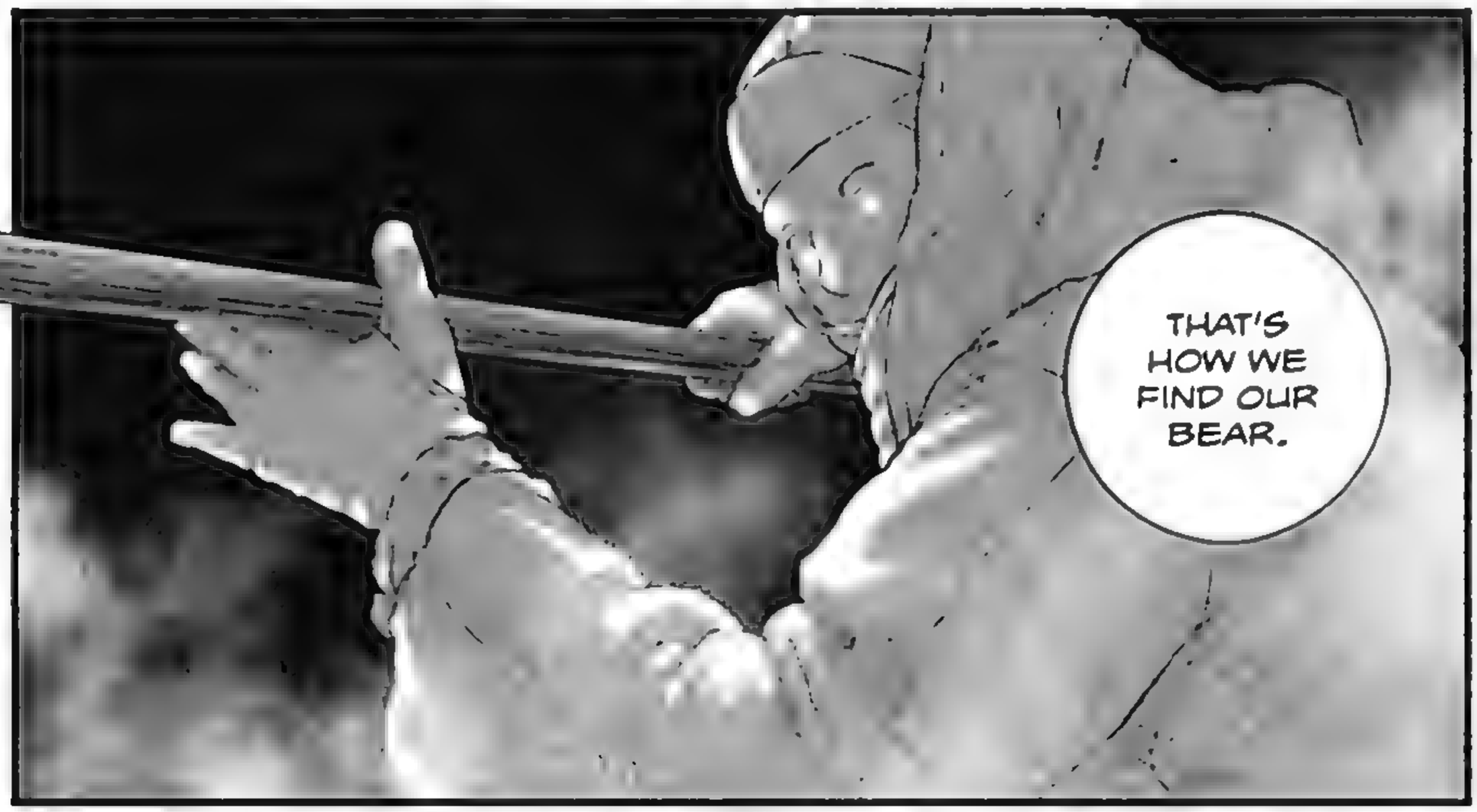

ANY HITS FROM NEARBY CAMERAS?
EARLIER, I FOUND OUT THAT OUR WHITE BEAR TOOK A PIT STOP IN A PUBLIC RESTROOM.
HFF...
NOPE. HE DID A REAL NICE JOB OF SMASHING 'EM UP.
HFF...
FAT CAT

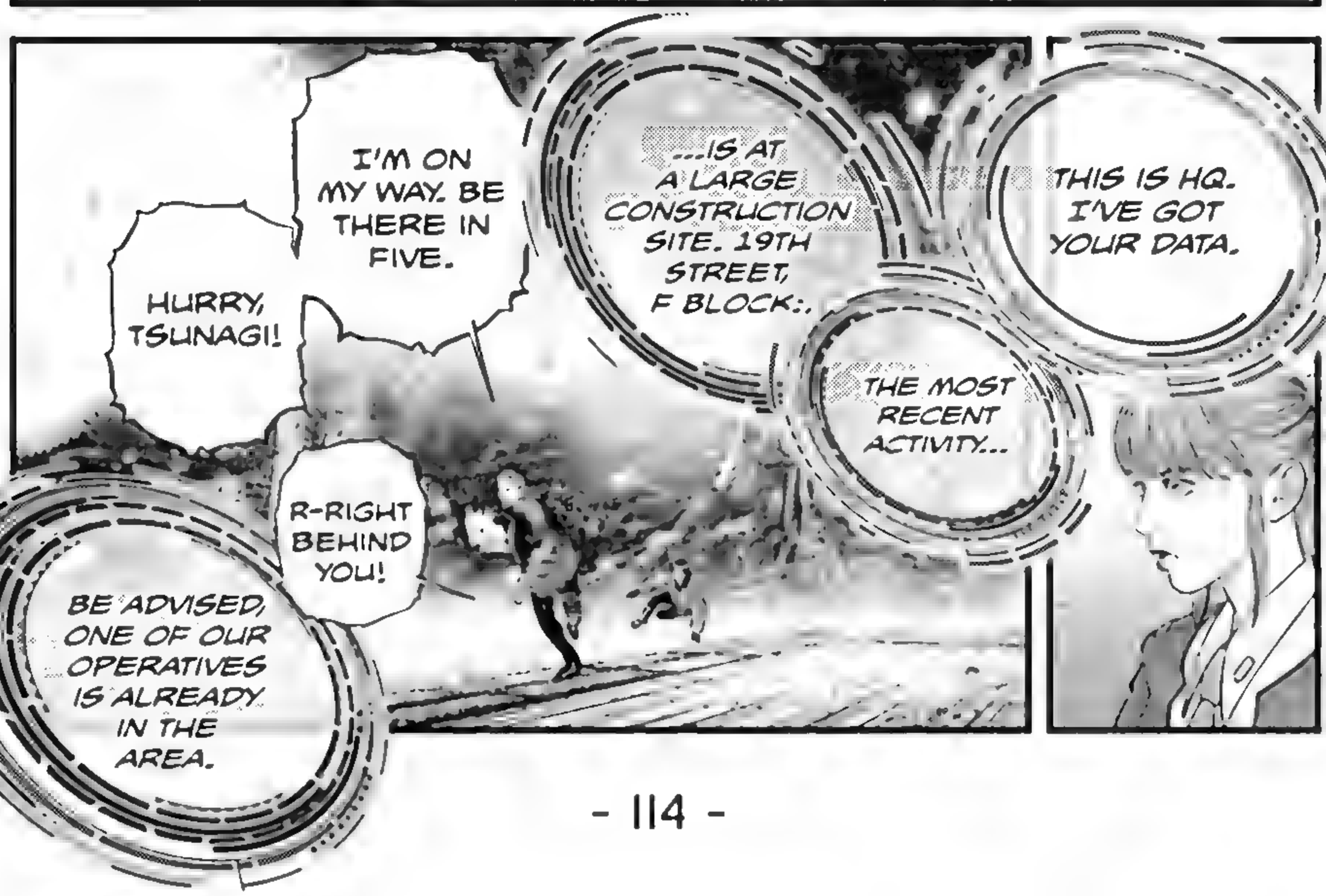

HUH? HOW'S THAT GONNA HELP?
UNDER-STOOD.
FIND OUT WHEN THEY WENT OFFLINE.
GET ME COORDINATES FOR EVERY SURVEILLANCE CAM IN THE CITY THAT'S BEEN VANDALIZED. CROSS-CHECK AGAINST THE TIMESTAMPS.
OPERATOR.

BINGO.
HE MIGHT STILL BE NEAR WHICH-EVER ONE HE TOOK OUT LAST!


OH! RIGHT!

SO IF WE FOLLOW THE TRAIL OF BUSTED CAMERAS...
HIS GOAL IS TO AVOID CAMERAS ALTOGETHER. BUT WHEN HE DOESN'T HAVE A CHOICE, HE TAKES THEM OUT.

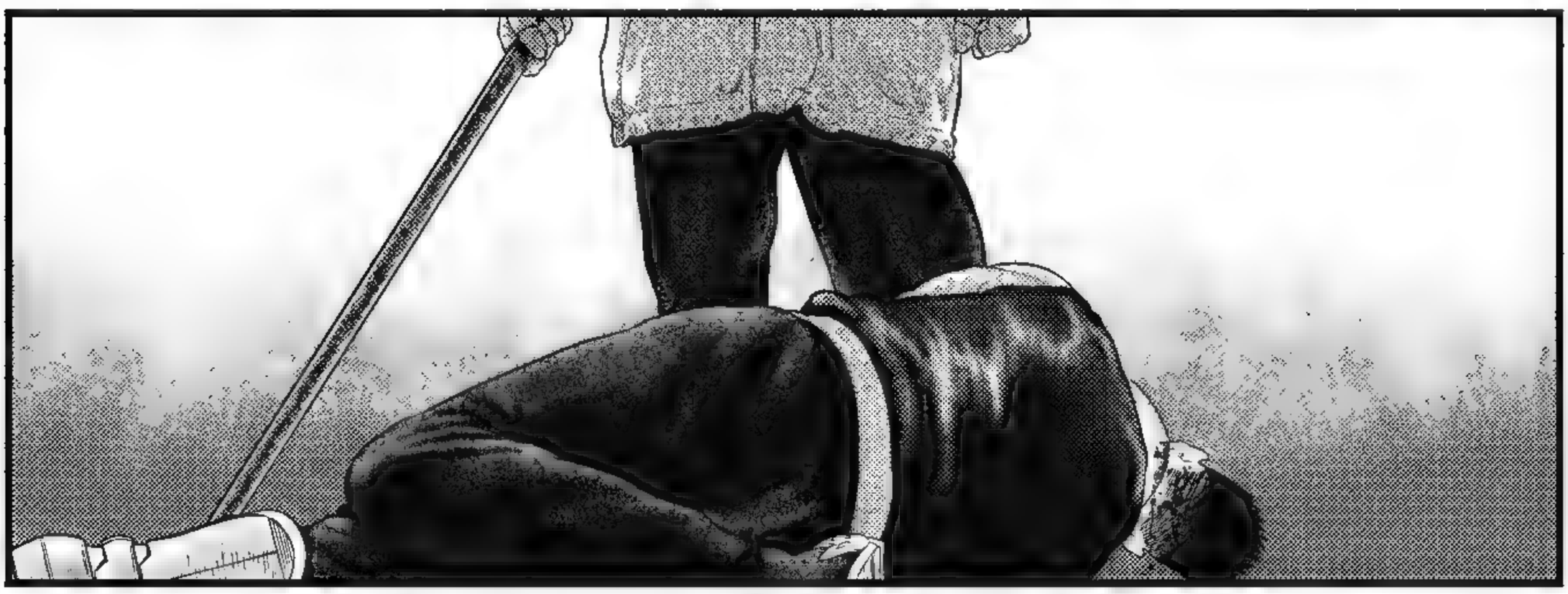

THAT'S HOW WE FIND OUR BEAR.

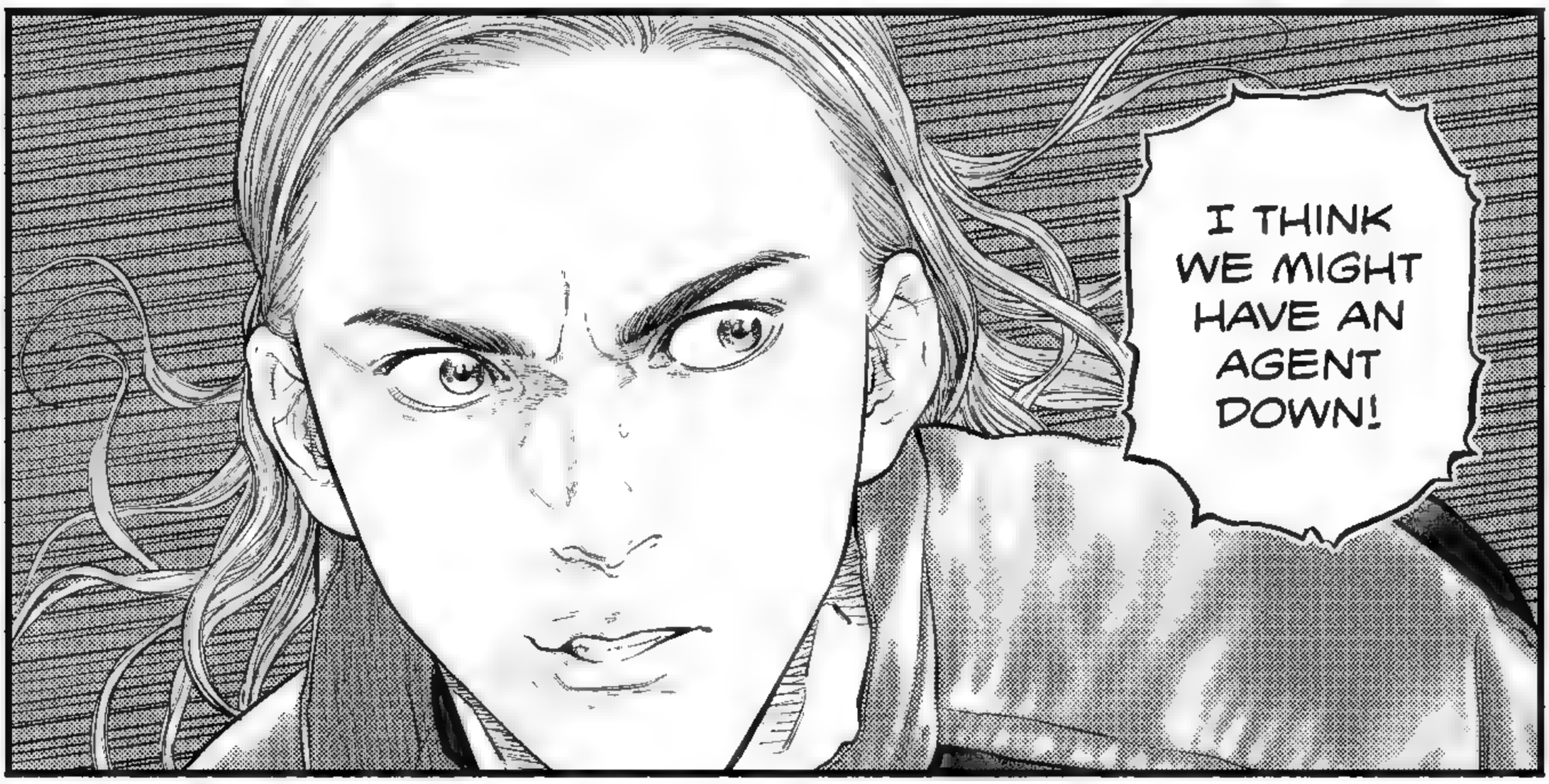

I'M ON MY WAY. BE THERE IN FIVE.
HURRY, TSUNAGI!
R-RIGHT BEHIND YOU!
BE ADVISED, ONE OF OUR OPERATIVES IS ALREADY IN THE AREA.
...IS AT A LARGE CONSTRUCTION SITE. 19TH STREET, F BLOCK:.
THE MOST RECENT ACTIVITY...
THIS IS HQ. I'VE GOT YOUR DATA.

WHAT?!
AGENT AZUMA APPEARS TO BE INVESTIGATING THE SITE ALONE.
I TELL YA...
...IT AIN'T FAIR. NOT EVEN TOGUSA APPRECIATES MY SENSE OF HUMOR.
AZUMA! HEADS UP!
HM?
KRKK
THE WHITE BEAR! WE THINK HE'S ALREADY IN THE BUILDING WITH YOU!

OPERATOR! WE NEED A FUCHIKOMA ON SITE, ASAP!

AZUMA!
DAMN IT! WHY WON'T HE ANSWER ?!
DO YOU COPY?!
AZUMA!




I THINK WE MIGHT HAVE AN AGENT DOWN!

TAK TAKKA TAK TAK
KACHK
CLOMP
CREAK
DON'T TELL ME HQ'S SKIMPIN' ON THE SURVEILLANCE BUDGET.
COULD THIS VAN BE ANY SMALLER?
CLOSE THE HATCH, WOULD YOU? I'VE GOT THE HEATER ON.
PAZ. IT'S ISHIKAWA.
LITTLE MISS MIKOMOTO SURE CAN PULL A CROWD.
AH. SCOPIN' OUT THE VENUE, I SEE. ...GEEZ, LOOK AT ALL THOSE PEOPLE.

NINE FOR NOW.

I'VE IDENTIFIED ALL OSAKI PROSTHETICS IN ATTENDANCE.

HOW MANY WE GOT?

NO SWEAT.

FIVE FOR ME, FOUR FOR YOU, BORMA.

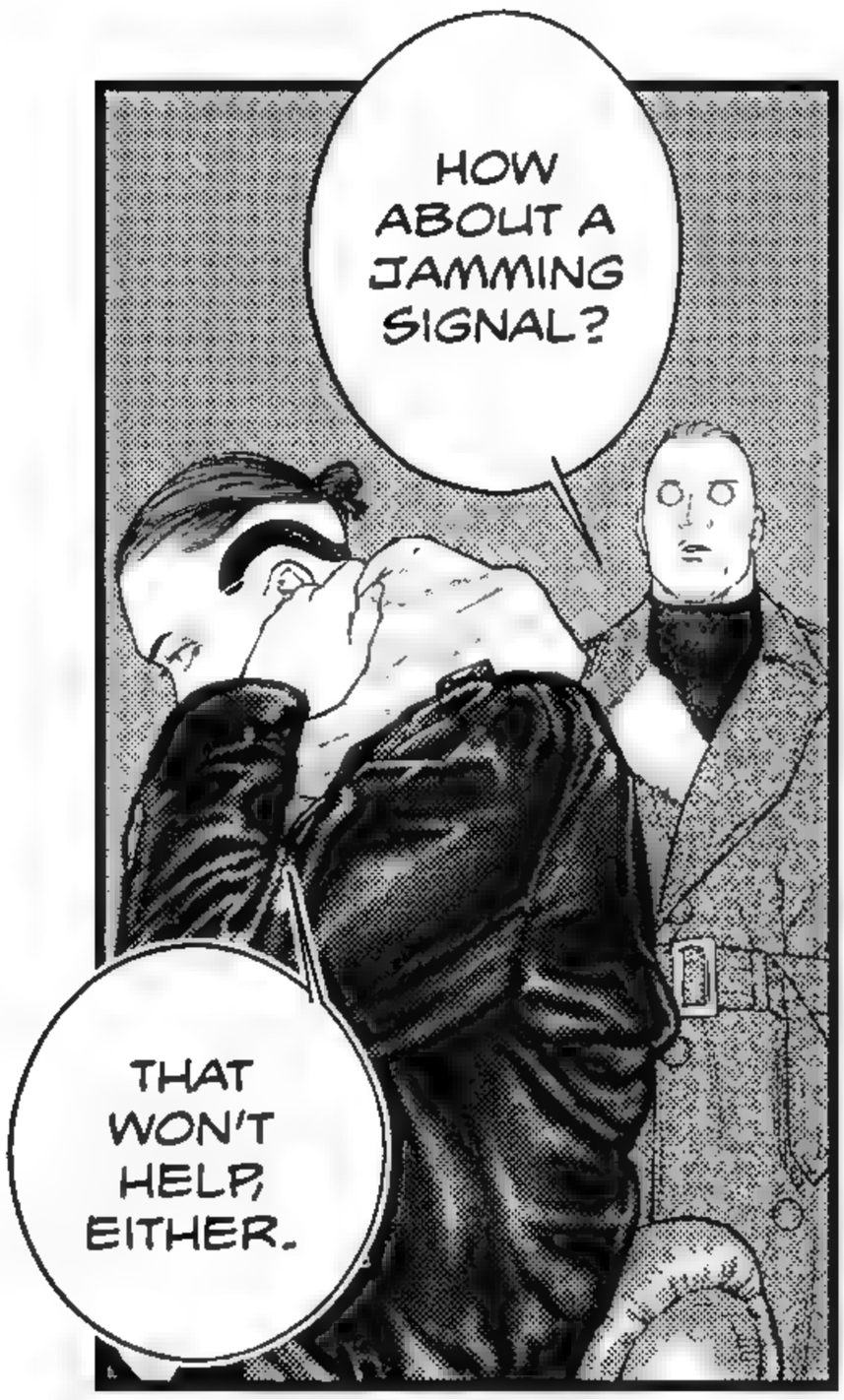
COPY THAT.

ANY CHANCE OF A VACCINE AGAINST THIS THING?

TRUST ME, I KNOW.

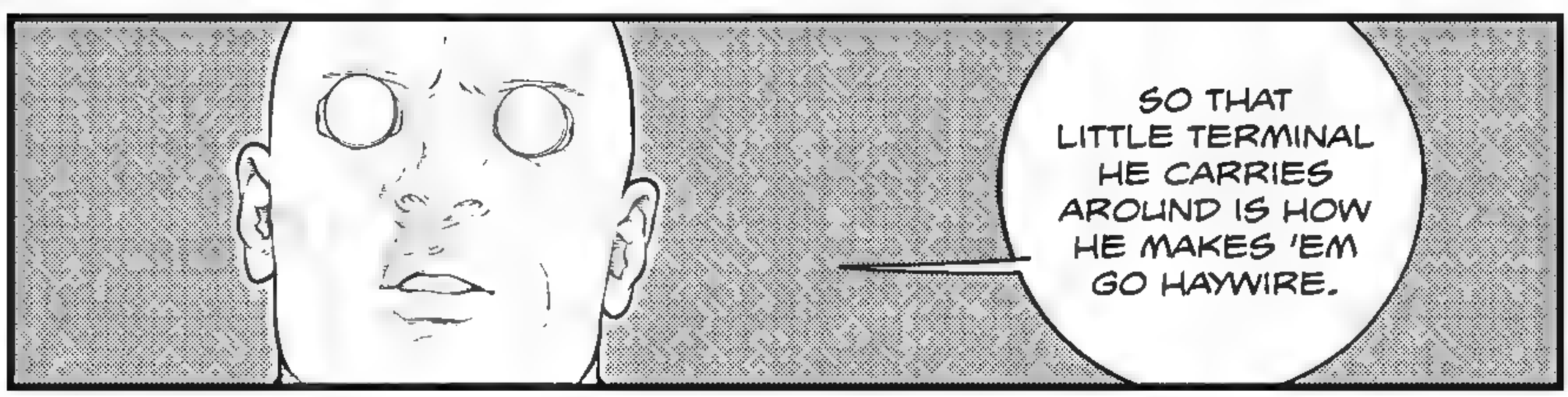
WE'RE NOT WORKING WITH A LOT OF FIRE-POWER HERE, ISHIKAWA.

'COURSE, IF MANY MORE SHOW UP, IT'S GONNA BE ROUGH.


HOW ABOUT A JAMMING SIGNAL?
THAT WON'T HELP, EITHER.

NO CAN DO. THE MODULE'S BEEN INSTALLED INTO THE CORE MEMORY.

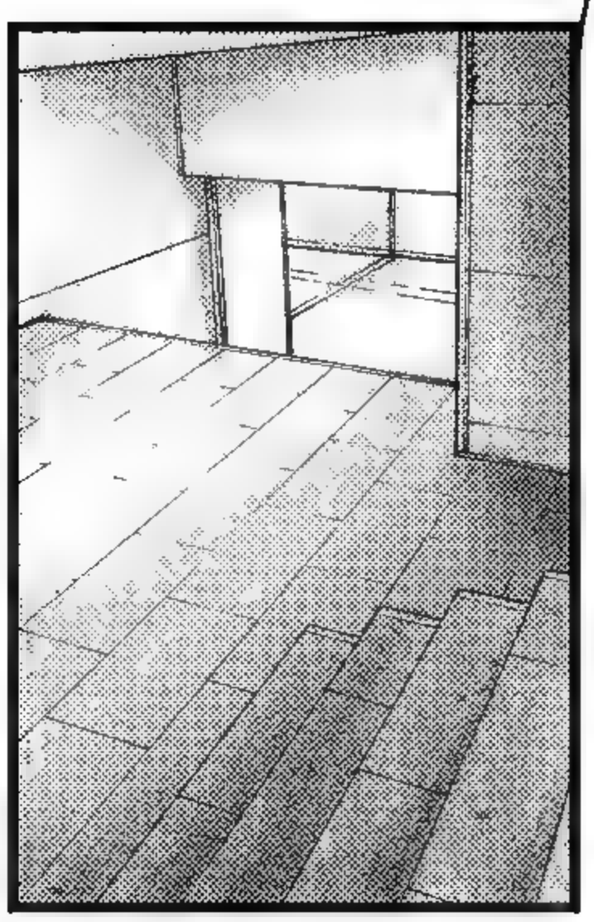
THE CYBERBRAIN BARRIER WAS INTACT. NO SIGN OF INTRUSION VIA THE NET.
I RAN FORENSICS ON THE ONE I LOST.
HE MUST BE SENDING THE SIGNAL IN PERSON, STRAIGHT TO HIS TARGET.

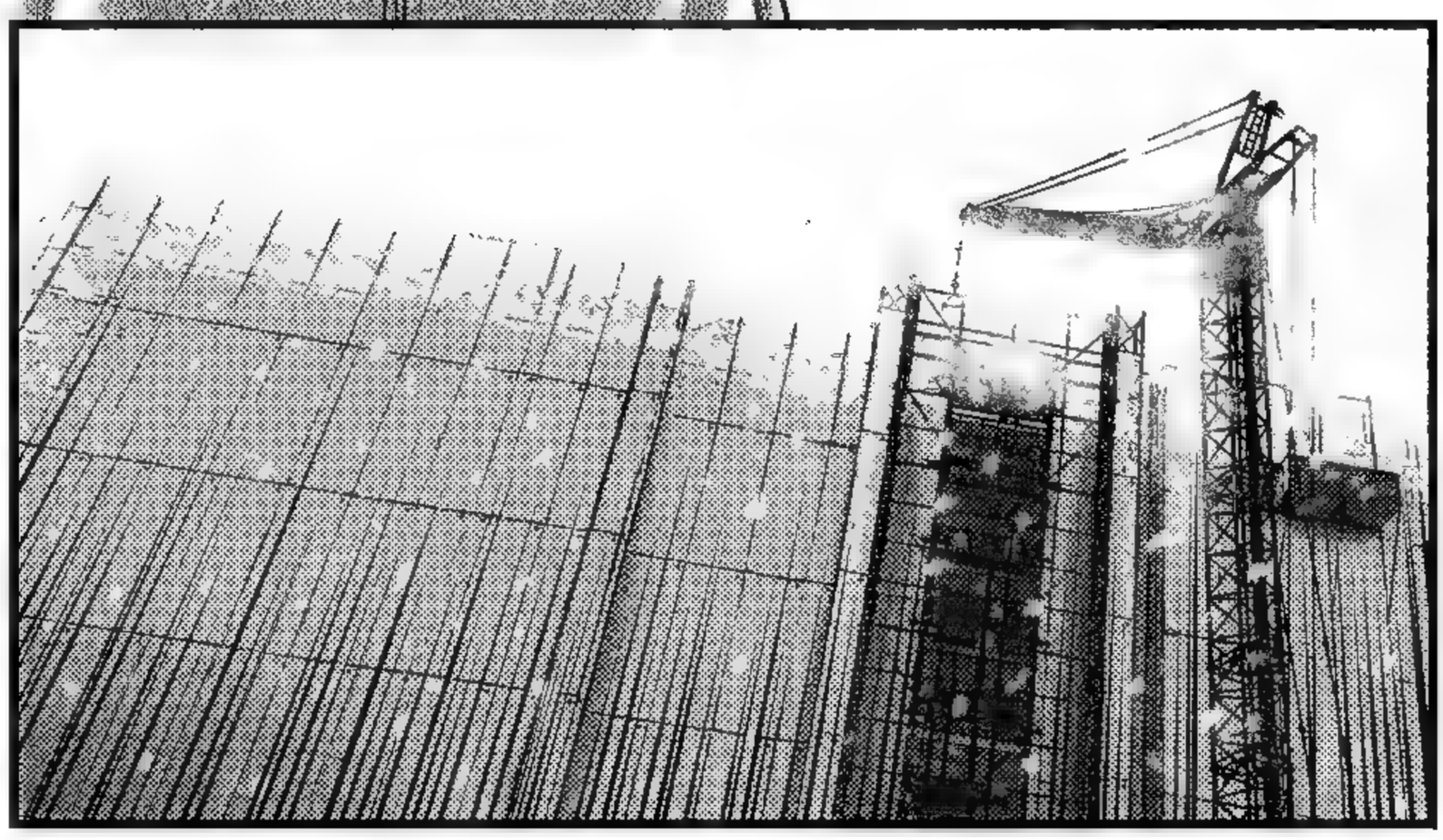

SO THAT LITTLE TERMINAL HE CARRIES AROUND IS HOW HE MAKES 'EM GO HAYWIRE.

SEEMS WE DON'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF JUST SITTING AROUND AT THE VENUE, WAITING FOR HIM TO SHOW UP.

AND WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT KIND OF RANGE HE HAS ON THAT THING.

RIGHT. SO IF WE DON'T FIND THIS KID ***BEFORE*** MIKOMOTO TAKES THE STAGE, THINGS ARE GONNA GET MESSY.

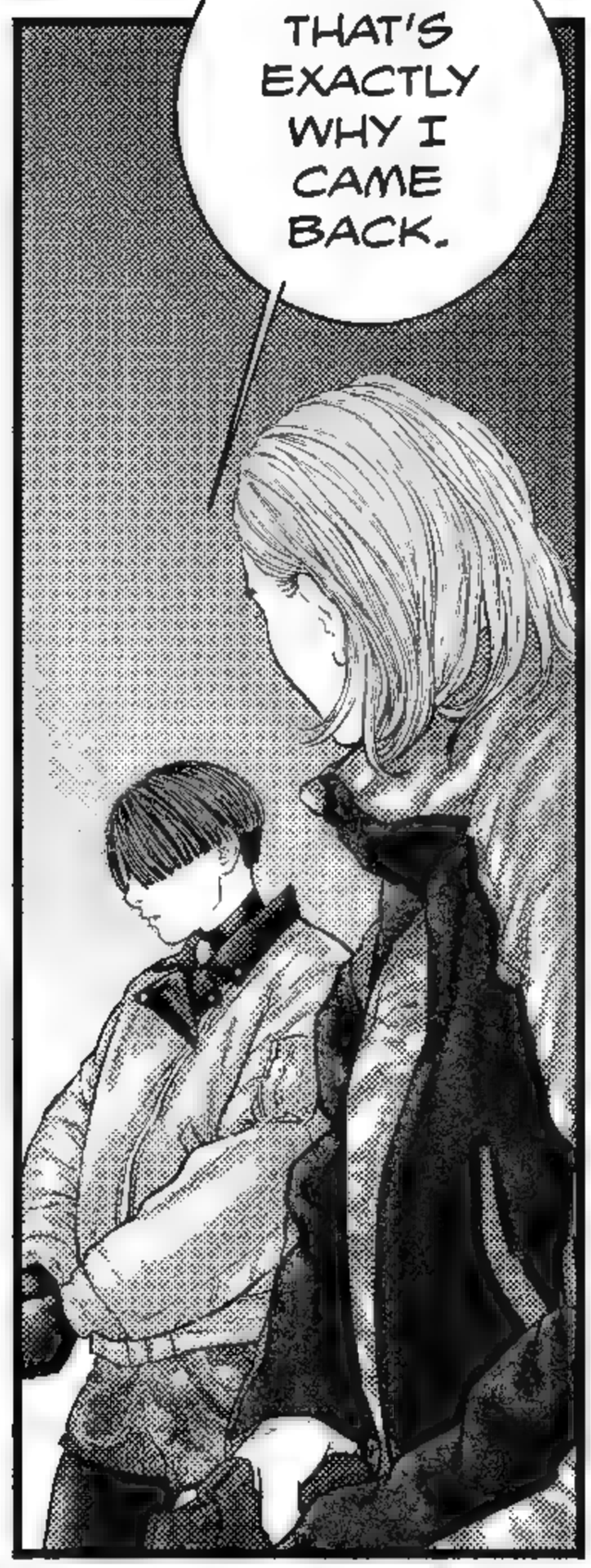




GIMME A SIGN YOU'RE ALIVE!
AZUMA! DO YOU READ ME?!

FUCHIKOMA, DO YOU SEE ANYTHING?
GREAT. WITH ALL THE DUST AND MOISTURE IN THE AIR, OUR THERMOPTIC'S PRETTY MUCH USELESS.
NOTHING YET! I'M WORKING MY WAY DOWN FROM THE TOP LIKE YOU ASKED.
THIS IS THE WHITE BEAR WE'RE DEALING WITH.
I WANT YOU TO FIND SOMEPLACE SAFE AND WAIT. STAY OUT OF SIGHT.
TSUNAGI.
HUH? WHY?

I HAVE TO BE THERE TO STOP HIM.


BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I CAME BACK.

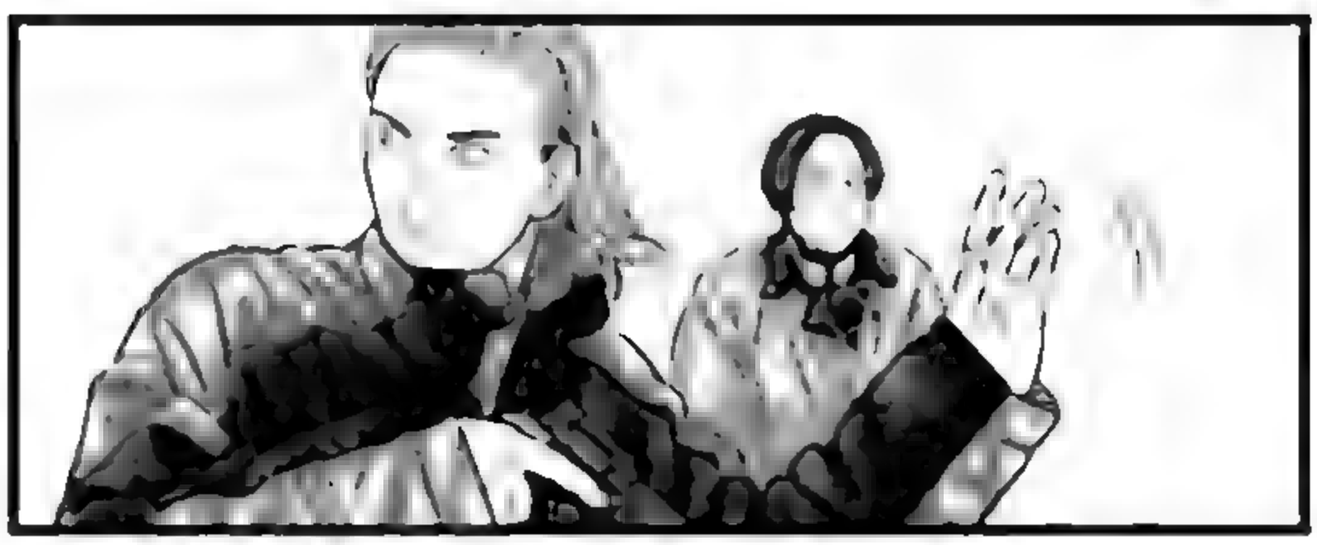
WHAT HAPPENED TO BELIEVING IN YOUR TEAM-MATES?!

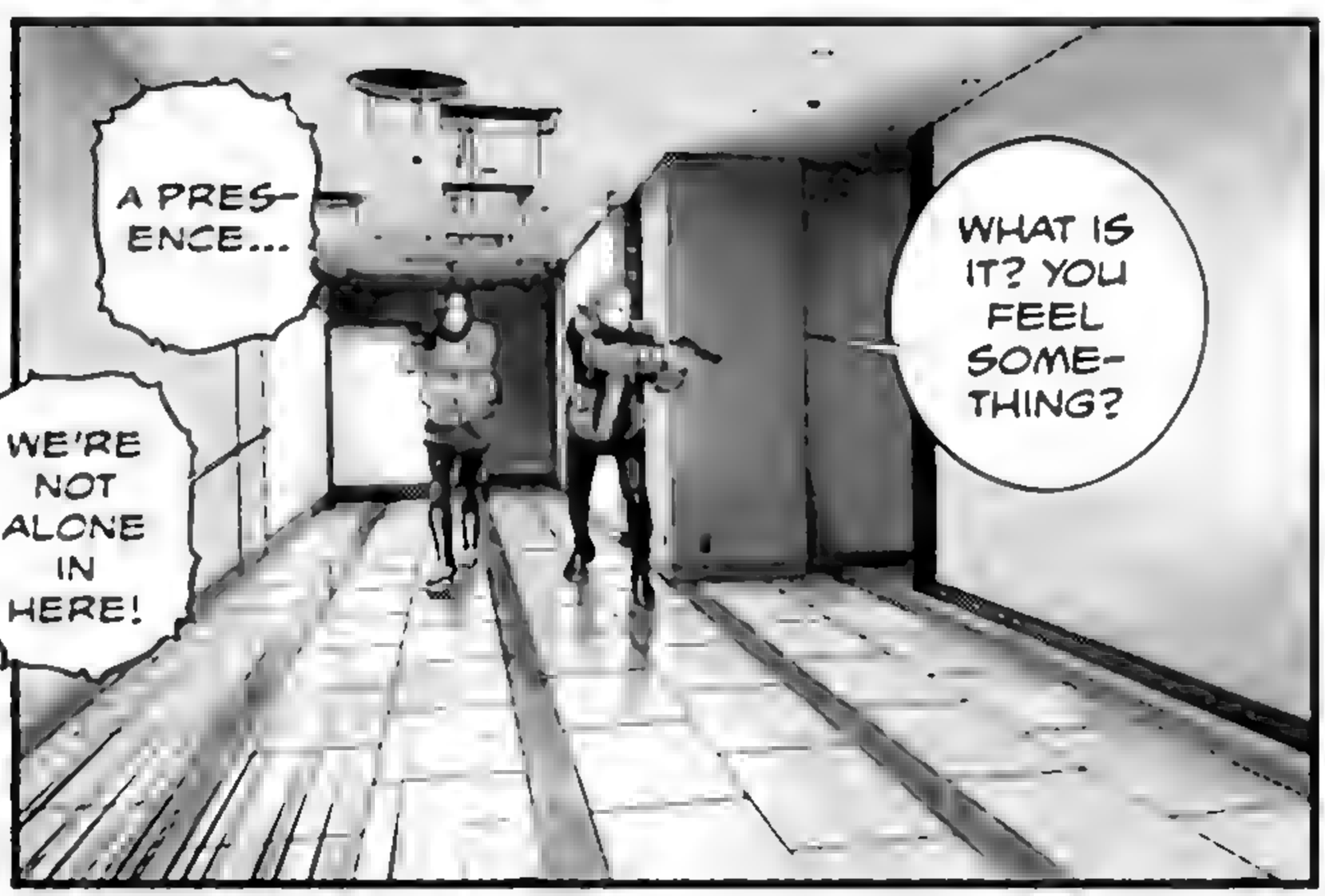
BESIDES, I *REALLY* DOUBT YOU COULD HANDLE HIM ON YOUR OWN.

19

FWIP
19
19

FWIP



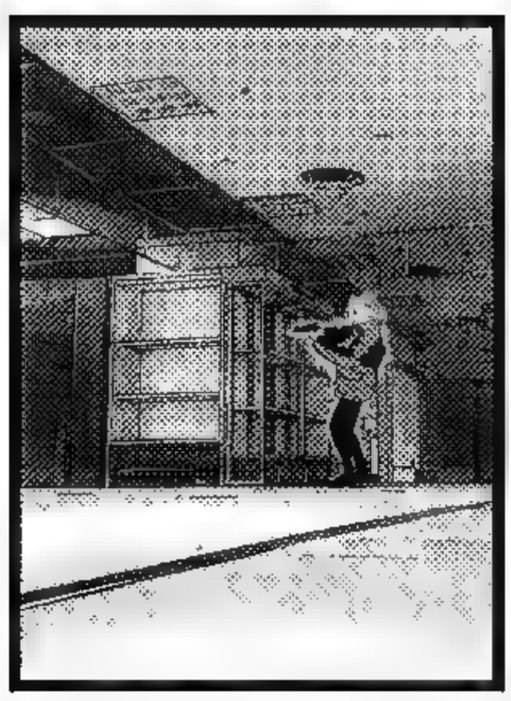

A PRES-ENCE...
WE'RE NOT ALONE IN HERE!
WHAT IS IT? YOU FEEL SOME-THING?

GASP

I'M NOT SURE... IT'S HARD TO GET A CLEAR READ.
IS IT THE BEAR?
KEEP BEHIND ME.

A-
A-1

OH, NO!



HOLD!
AZUMA!

DASH
WE'RE COMING!
OKAY. CLEAR.

NGH...

WE NEED YOU TO FILL US IN.
WAKE UP, AZUMA.
WHAT HAPPENED? WAS IT THE BEAR?

BUT IF THE FOOTPRINTS AND THE SCENT TRAIL ARE ANYTHING TO GO BY, IT WASN'T A ONE-MAN JOB.

WHAT HAPPENED?

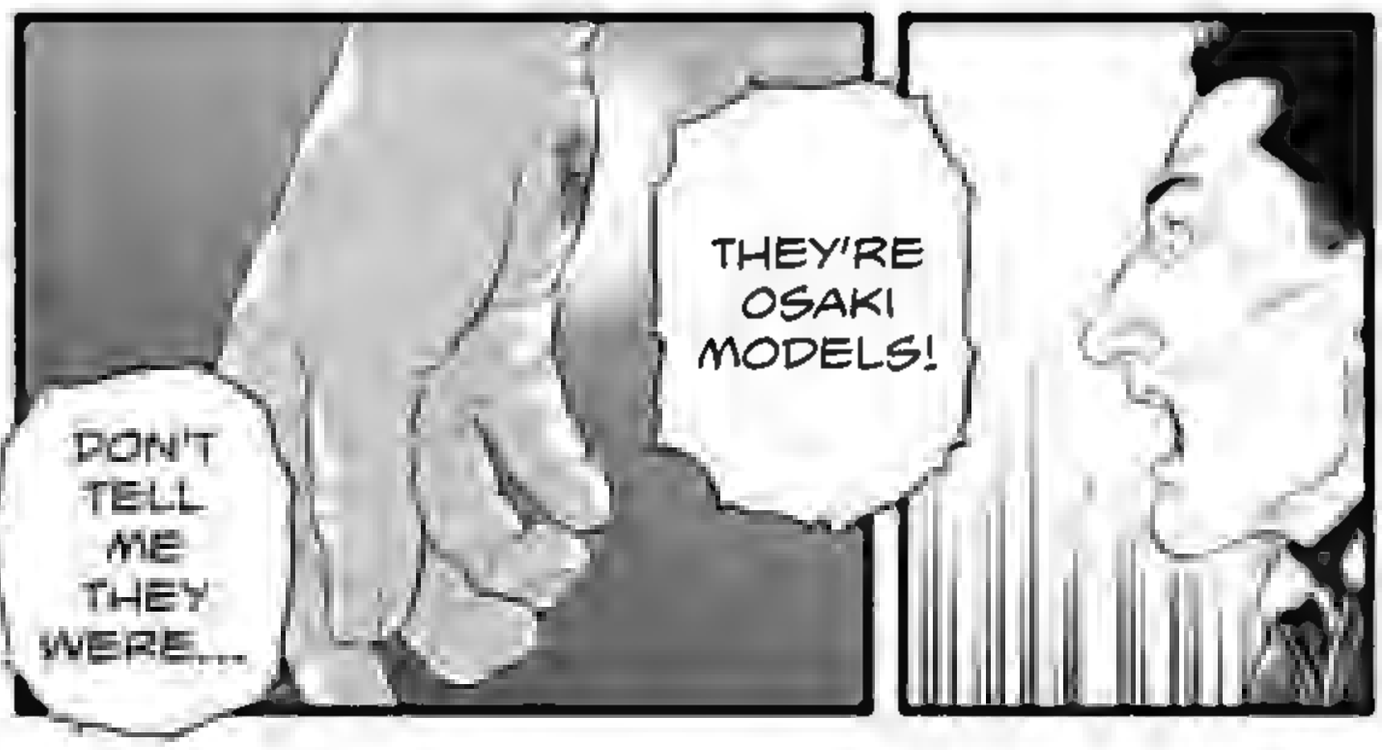
THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW.

SOMEONE CAME OUT OF NOWHERE AND SMASHED THE BACK OF MY SKULL.

KRRRNK
KNK

YEAH...
SOMEONE'S TRYING TO KEEP SECTION 9 AWAY FROM THE VENUE.

WHOA!
WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THESE GUYS?


THEY'RE OSAKI MODELS!
DON'T TELL ME THEY WERE...

WE WALKED RIGHT INTO HASHIKAMI'S TRAP.

22
ONE STEP
AHEAD

BLAM
BLAM

THEY'RE JUST CIVILIANS! THEY'RE BEING CONTROLLED!
!
DON'T KILL 'EM, TSUNAGI!

AIM FOR THE–
THE KNEES!
EASIER SAID THAN DONE...

YOU LITTLE...

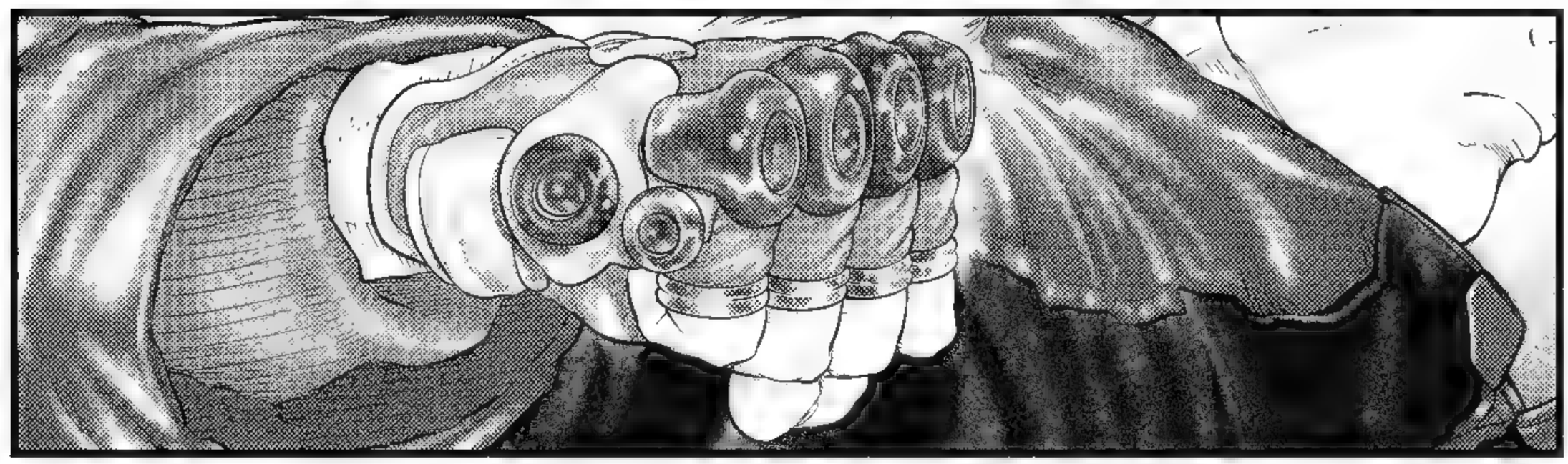
WHUMP
GRAAAHH!

AZUMA! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
OOF. MY HEAD...

BAM
BAM

BEHIND YOU!
SHIT!

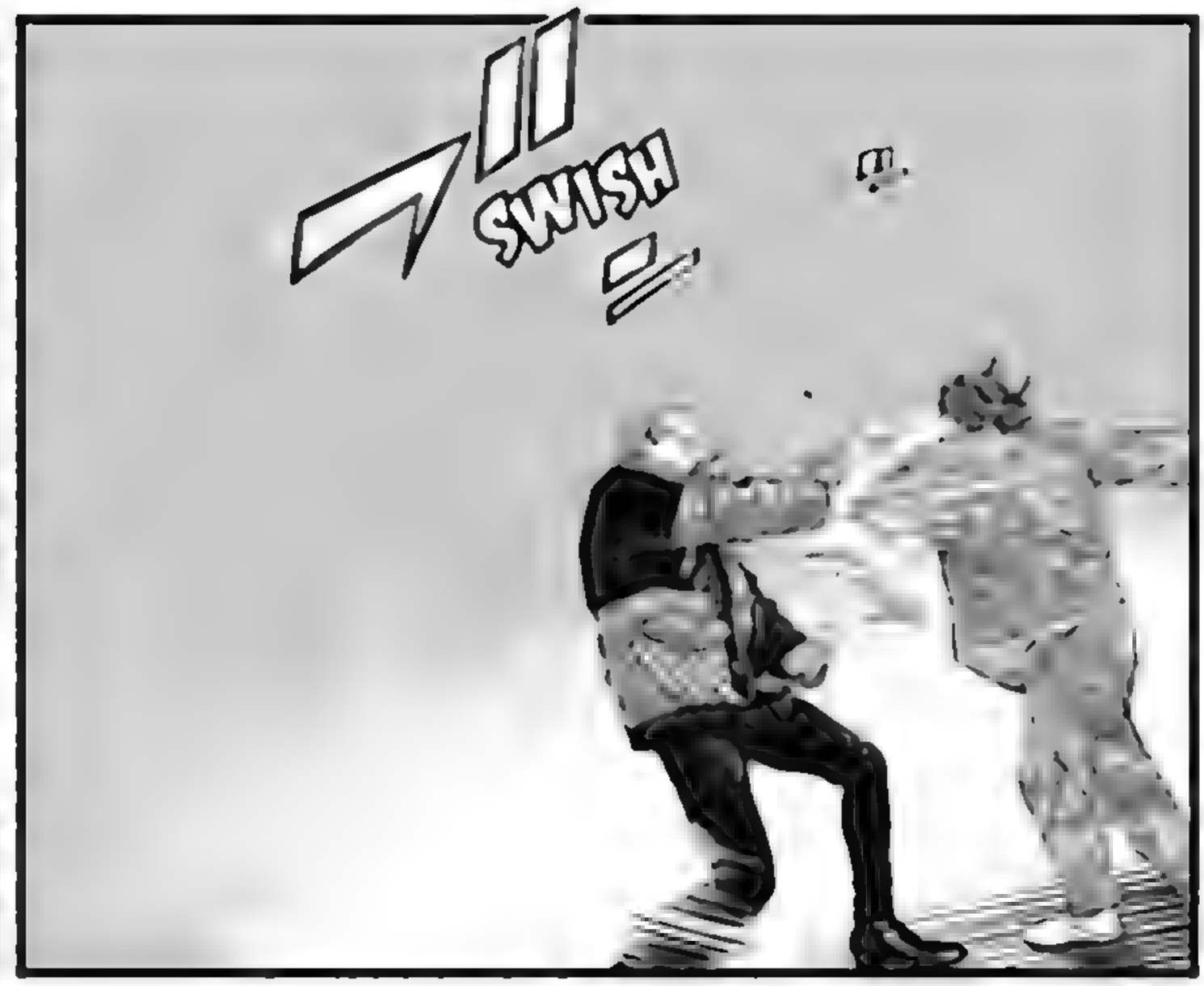
WHA?

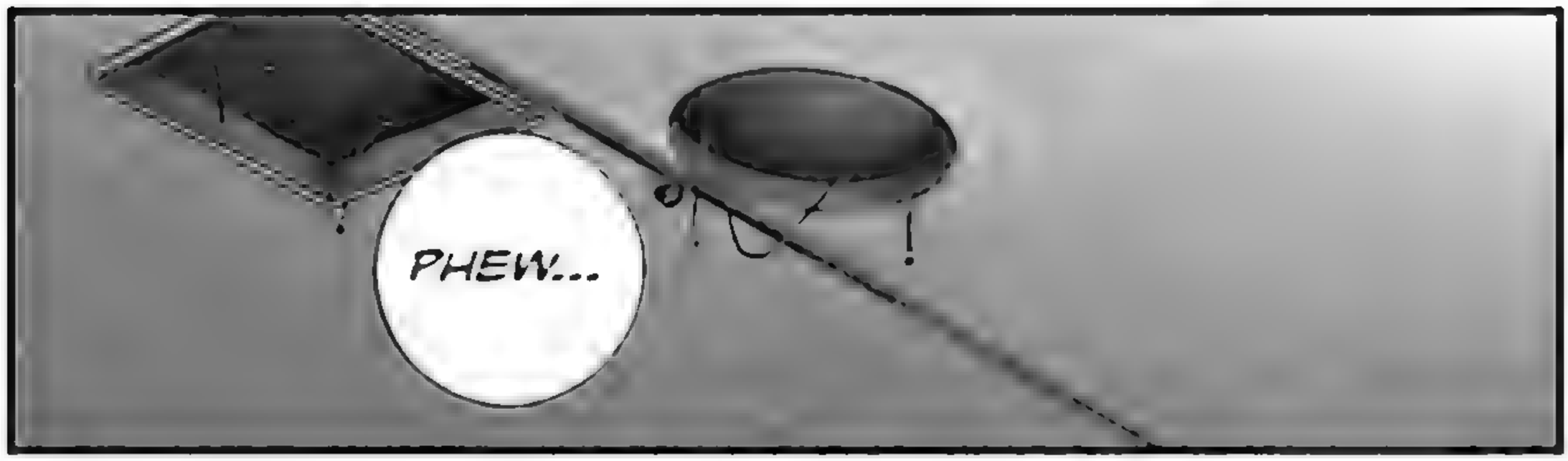


EEK!
WHAM

TOGUSA! LOOK OUT!

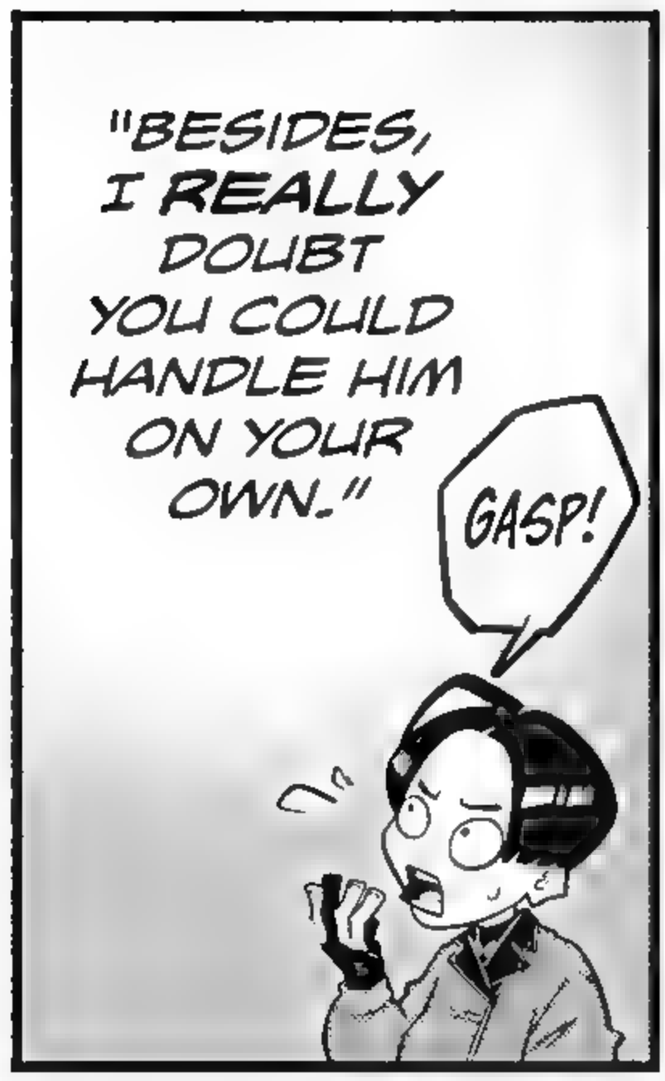
WHOOSH


SWISH


PHEW...

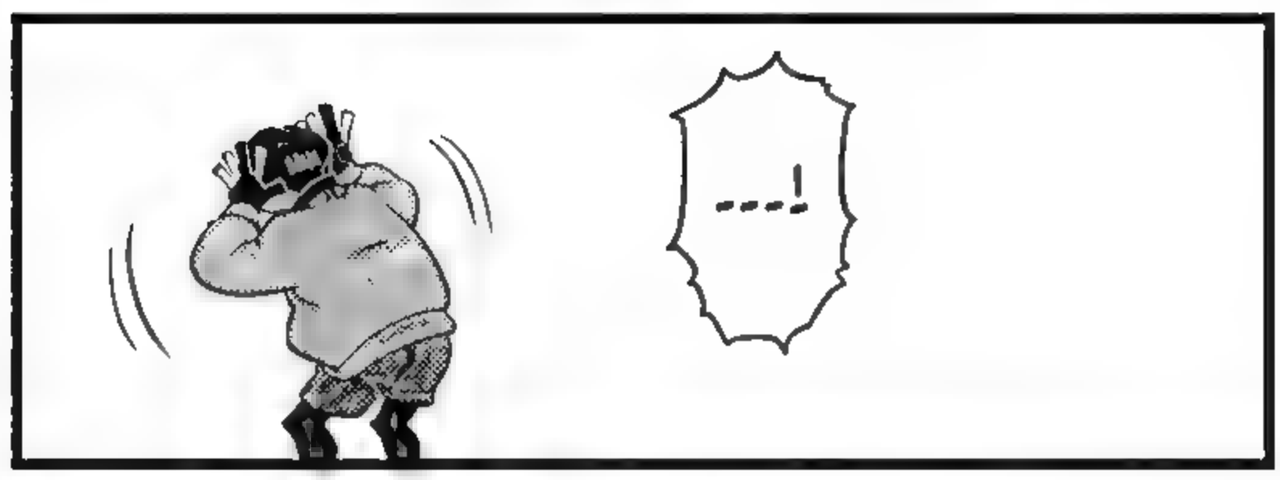
DAMN, THAT STINGS...

THEY TOOK YOU DOWN, DIDN'T THEY?
GIVE SECTION 9 SOME CREDIT, WOULD YA?
WHOA...
...


"BESIDES, I REALLY DOUBT YOU COULD HANDLE HIM ON YOUR OWN."
GASP!

OH, MY GOD. HE'S SO DASHING!

YOU OKAY?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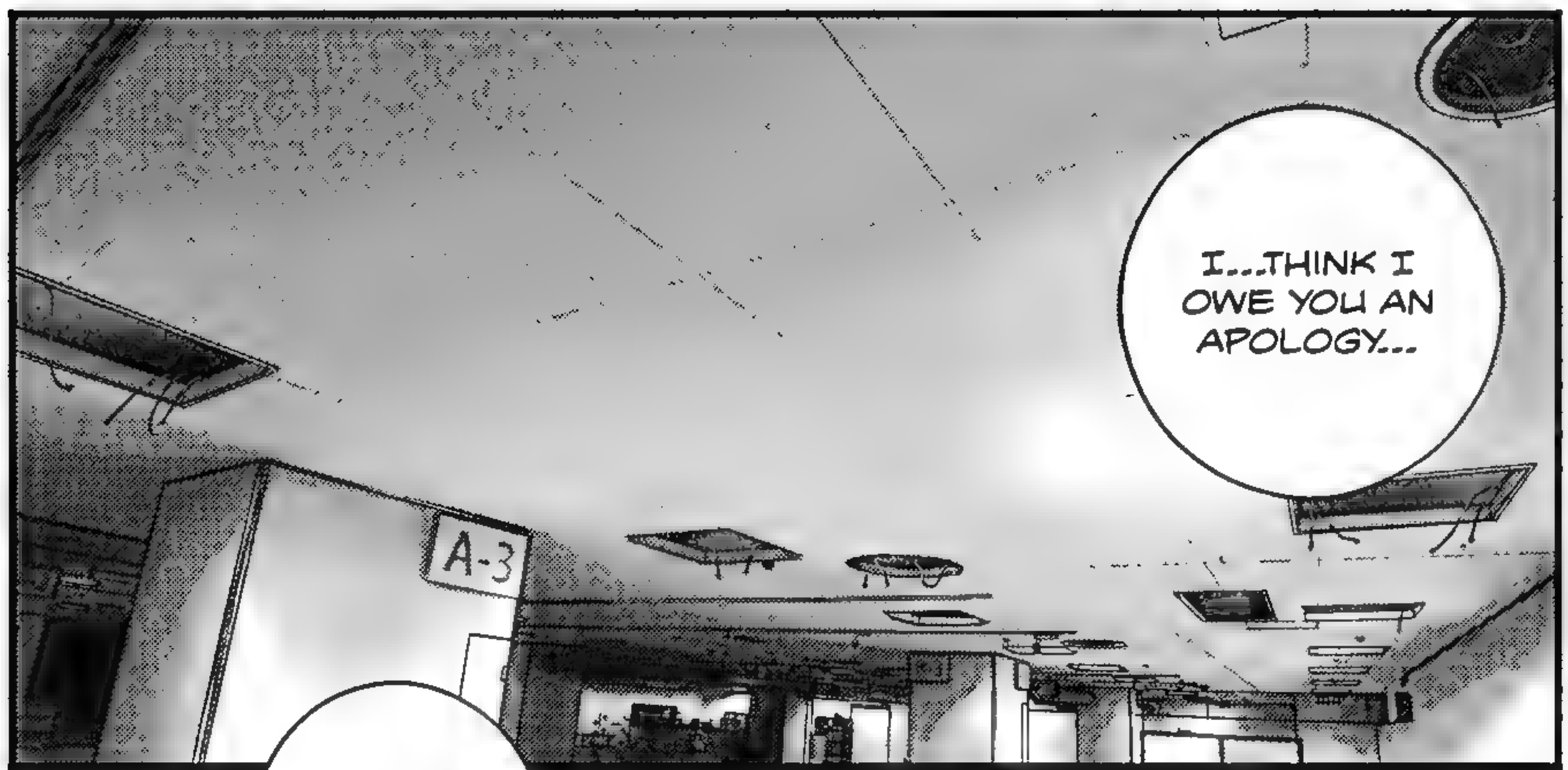

I...THINK I OWE YOU AN APOLOGY...
A-3
HUH? FOR WHAT?

SHOH SET YOU UP?!

YOU THINK THE TWO OF THEM ARE WORKING TOGETHER?

OW!

YEAH. HE LED US STRAIGHT INTO OUR OWN BEAR TRAP.

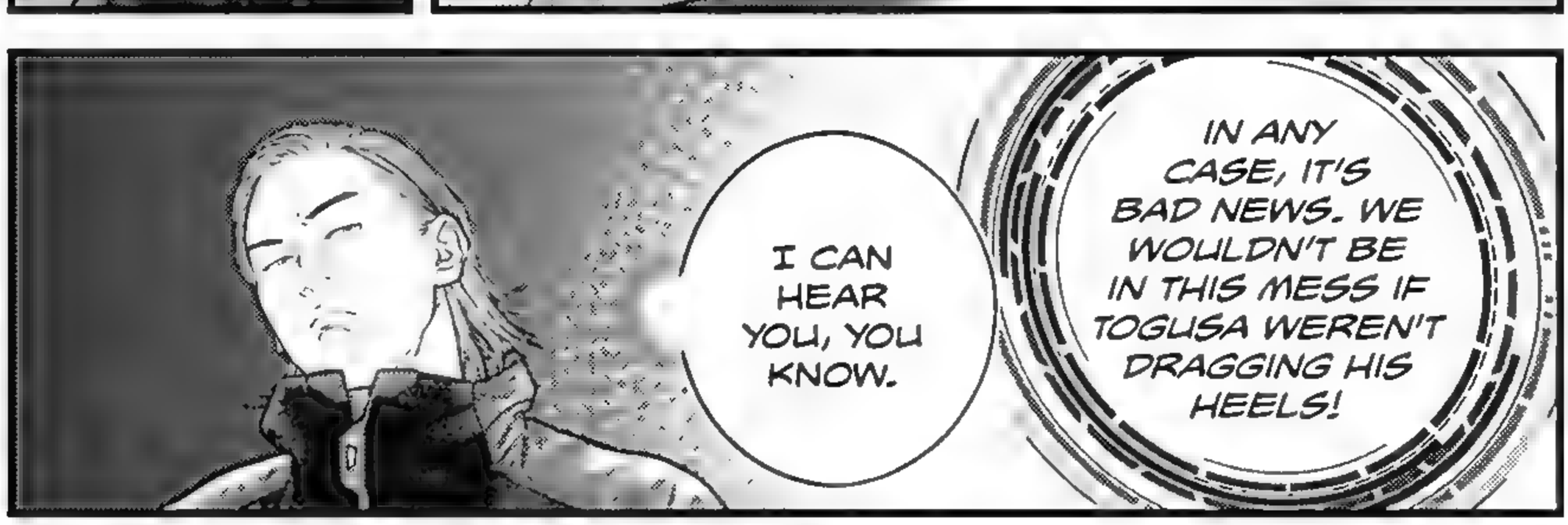
LOOKS THAT WAY.

WHRR

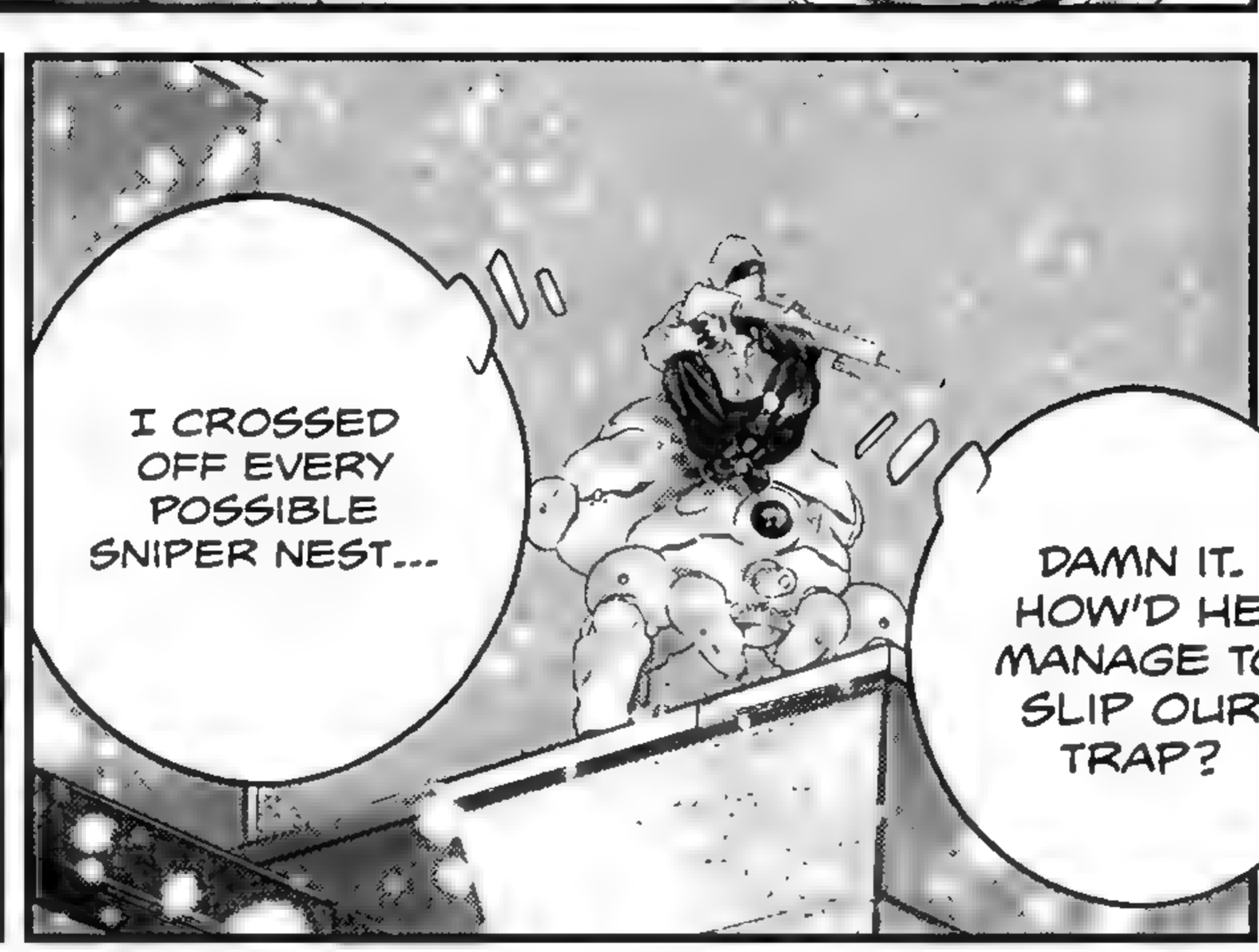
WHRR

WHAT-EVER! THE JOKE STILL WORKS!
...WHO EVER HEARD OF A BEAR SHEPHERD?

GREAT. THE KID'S A SHEPHERD NOW.
THEY LOOK PRETTY FRIENDLY. NO IDEA WHY, THOUGH.
I JUST FOUND SOME FOOTAGE OF HIM AND THE BEAR. THREE HOURS OLD.

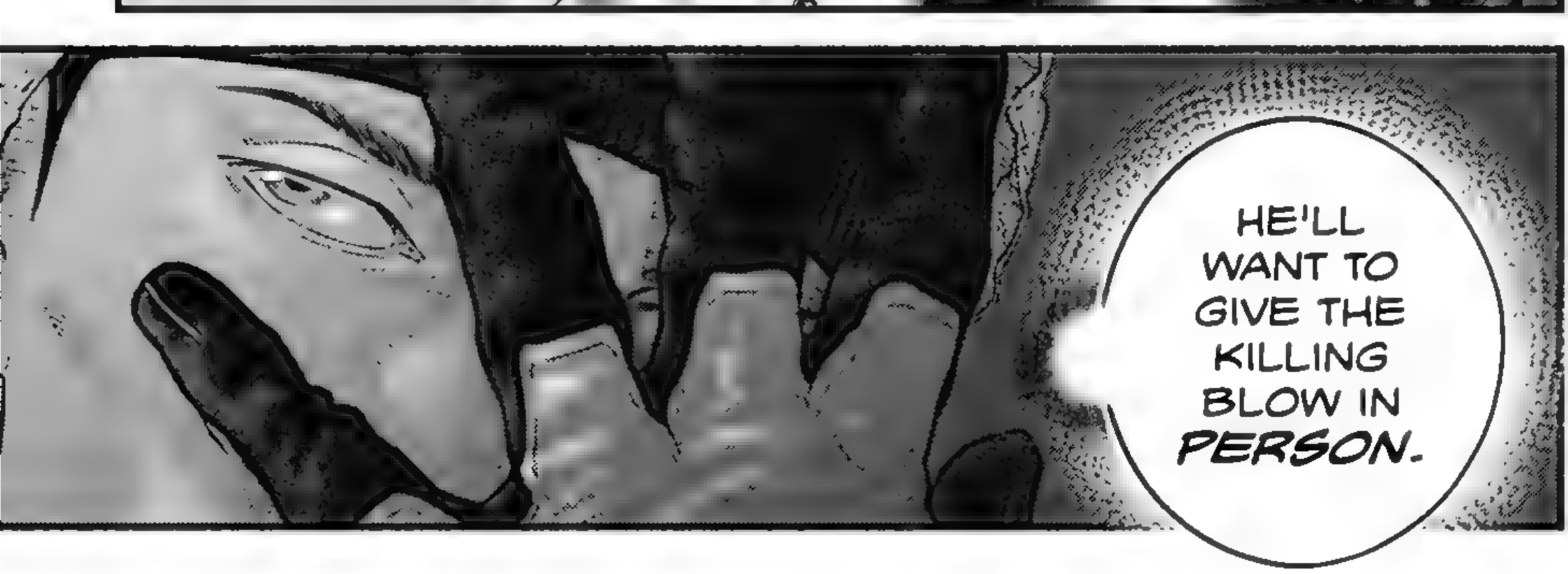

I CAN HEAR YOU, YOU KNOW.
IN ANY CASE, IT'S BAD NEWS. WE WOULDN'T BE IN THIS MESS IF TOGUSA WEREN'T DRAGGING HIS HEELS!

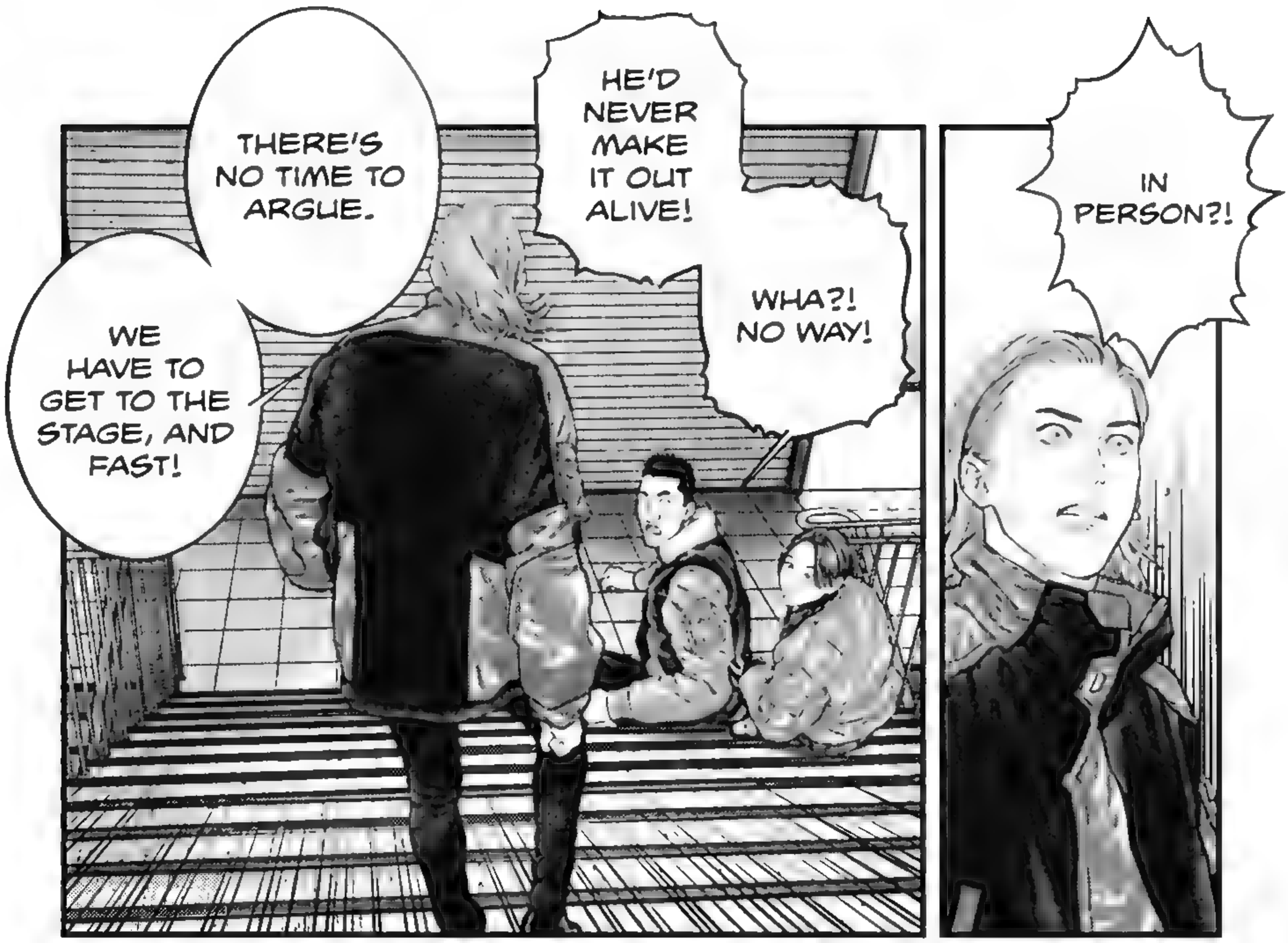
WAIT... SNIPER?


I CROSSED OFF EVERY POSSIBLE SNIPER NEST...
DAMN IT. HOW'D HE MANAGE TO SLIP OUR TRAP?

I SHOULD'VE KNOWN HE'D MAKE THIS INTERESTING.
HEH.

HUH? WHAT'S GOING ON?!
CALLING ALL AGENTS. SET UP A PATROL AROUND THE STAGE AREA.
OUR GUY'S A MATAGI.


HE'LL WANT TO GIVE THE KILLING BLOW IN PERSON.


THERE'S NO TIME TO ARGUE.
WE HAVE TO GET TO THE STAGE, AND FAST!
HE'D NEVER MAKE IT OUT ALIVE!
WHA?! NO WAY!
IN PERSON?!

HEADS UP, SAITO.
IF THE BEAR'S COMING IN PERSON, YOU CAN BET THE KID'LL BE THERE, TOO.
THAT LEAVES US TO TAKE CARE OF SHOH.
YEAH. I SEE IT.
...

OUR PRINCESS HAS ARRIVED.

?!

GOT IT.

TOGUSA'S HEADING TO YOUR POSITION.

DOUBLE DOWN ON SECURITY OVER THERE.

KRNCH

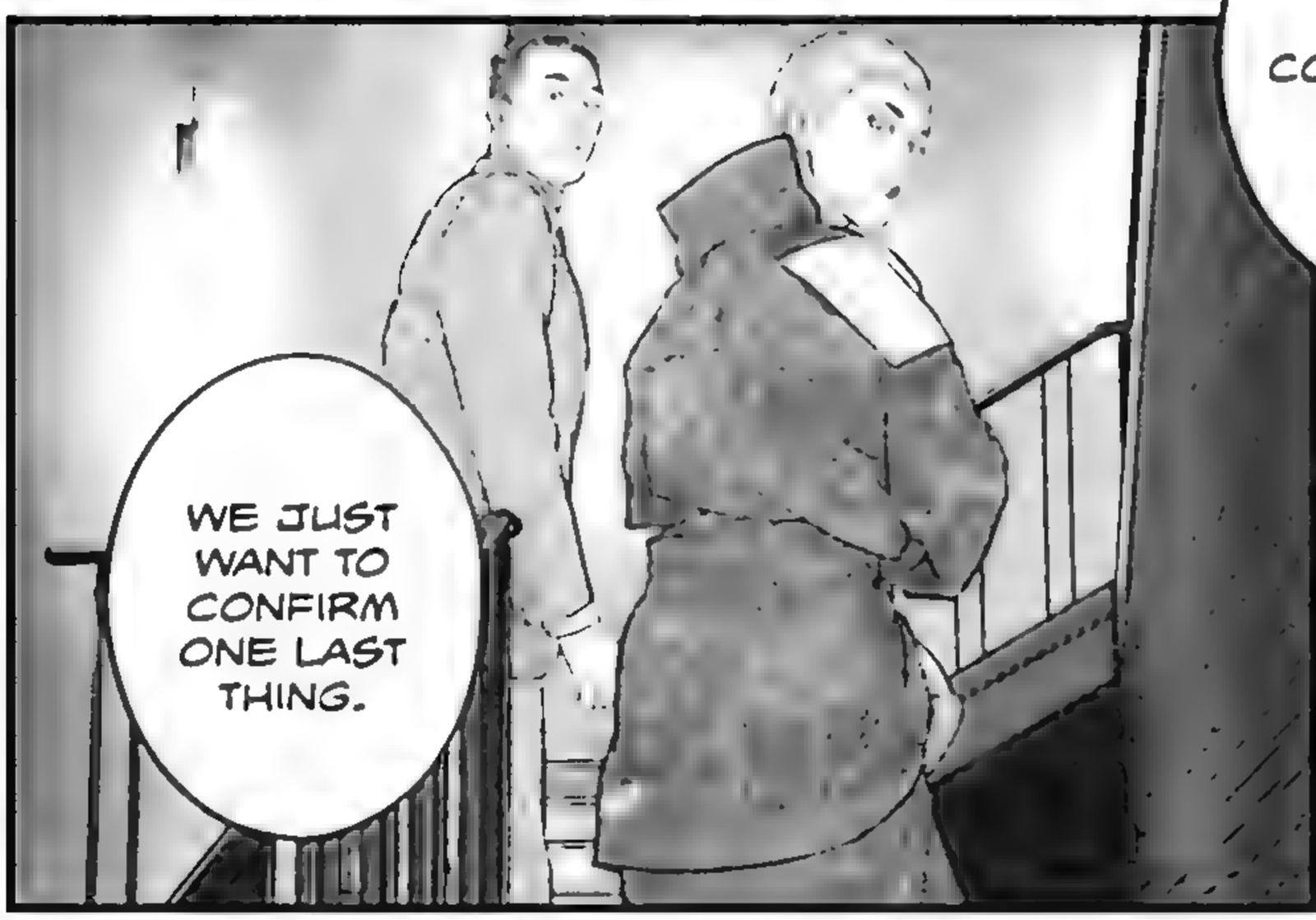
AS IF THIS PARTY NEEDED ANY MORE GUESTS.

TCH.

JUST IN TIME FOR THE SHOW.

LET'S GO WATCH KAZUYUKI'S DREAMS GO UP IN FLAMES.

JUST ONE MORE SIGN OF THIS CITY'S HIGH HOPES FOR ITS NEW MAYOR.
IT'S A GREAT TURNOUT, EVEN WITH ALL THIS SNOW.
THE PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN, AND THEY WANT YOU TO LEAD THE WAY! HA HA HA!


WE JUST WANT TO CONFIRM ONE LAST THING.

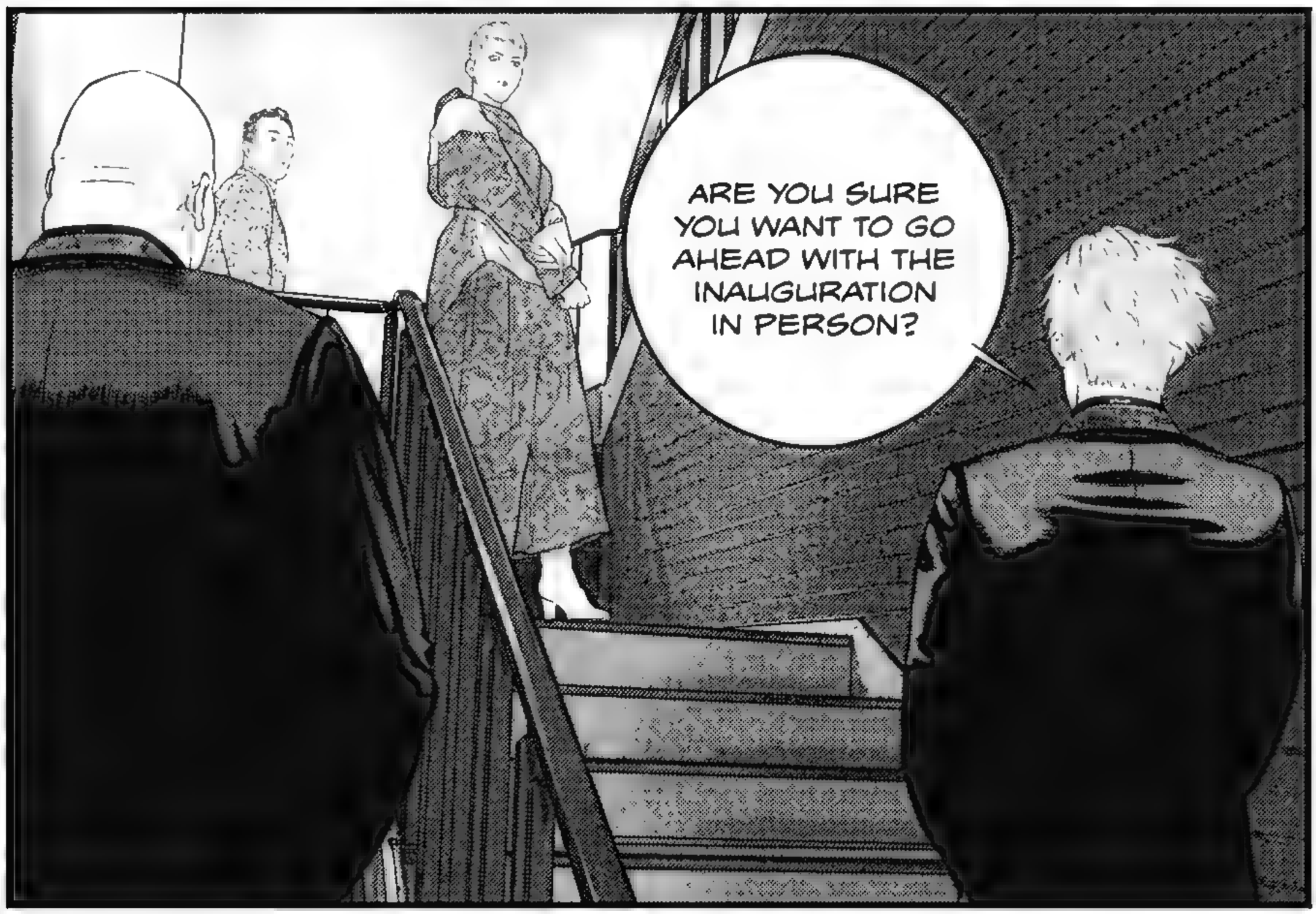
COUNCILOR.

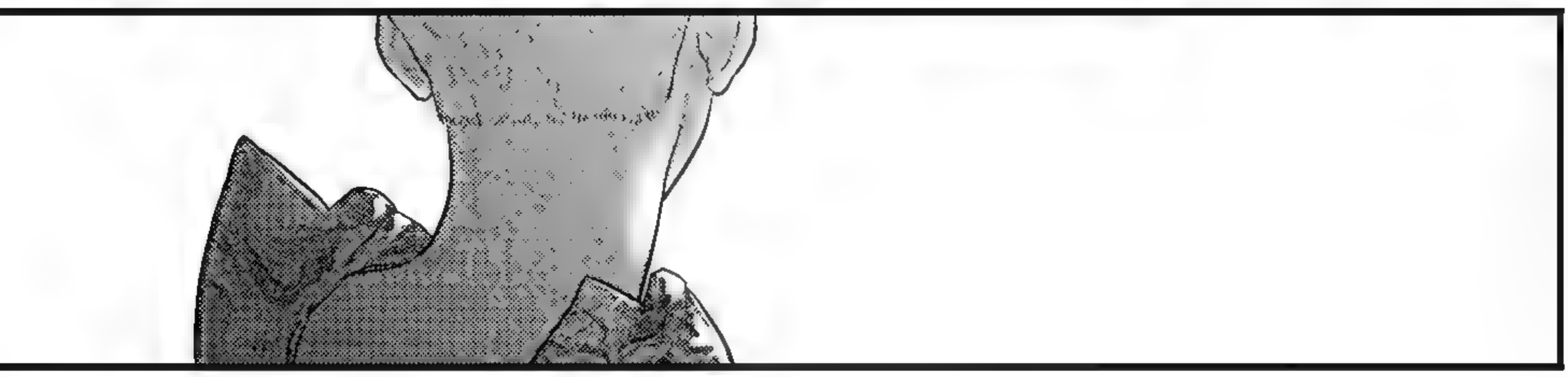
I APPRECIATE THAT.

SECTION 9'S AGENTS ARE COVERING THE VENUE. WE'RE ON MAXIMUM ALERT.

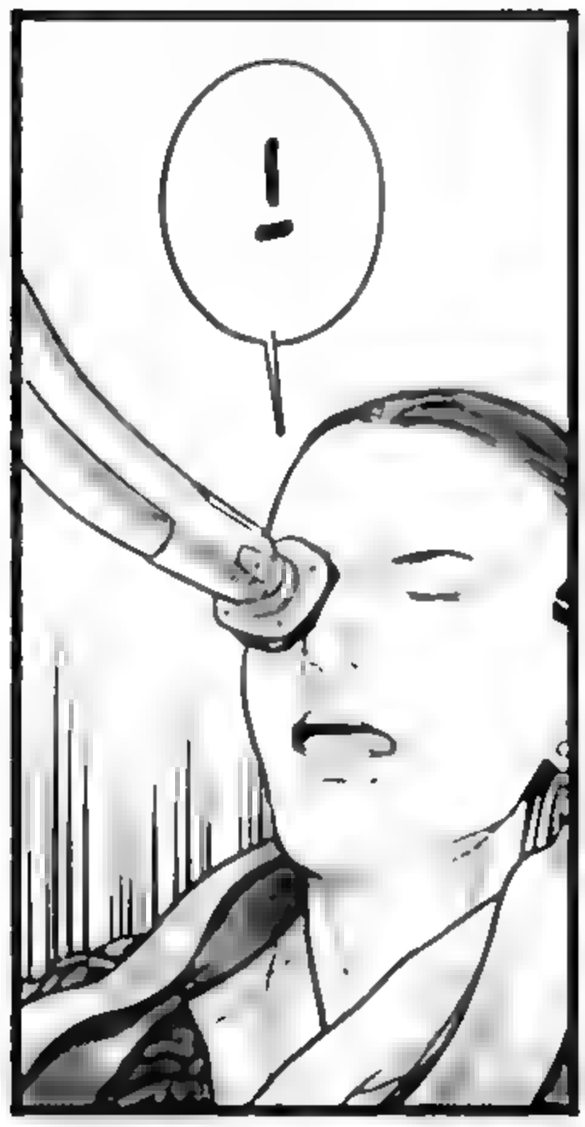
HOWEVER...

...I'M AFRAID WE CAN'T GUARANTEE YOUR SAFETY ONE HUNDRED PERCENT.


ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO GO AHEAD WITH THE INAUGURATION IN PERSON?



...AS OUR CITY'S NEW MAYOR.
...TO JOIN US HERE FOR THE SWEARING IN OF COUNCILOR SHINRA MIKOMOTO...
CLAMOR
THANK YOU ALL FOR BRAVING THE WEATHER TODAY...
CLAMOR
BZZT
WHOOOO!
AND NOW, WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, THE NEW MAYOR HERSELF!

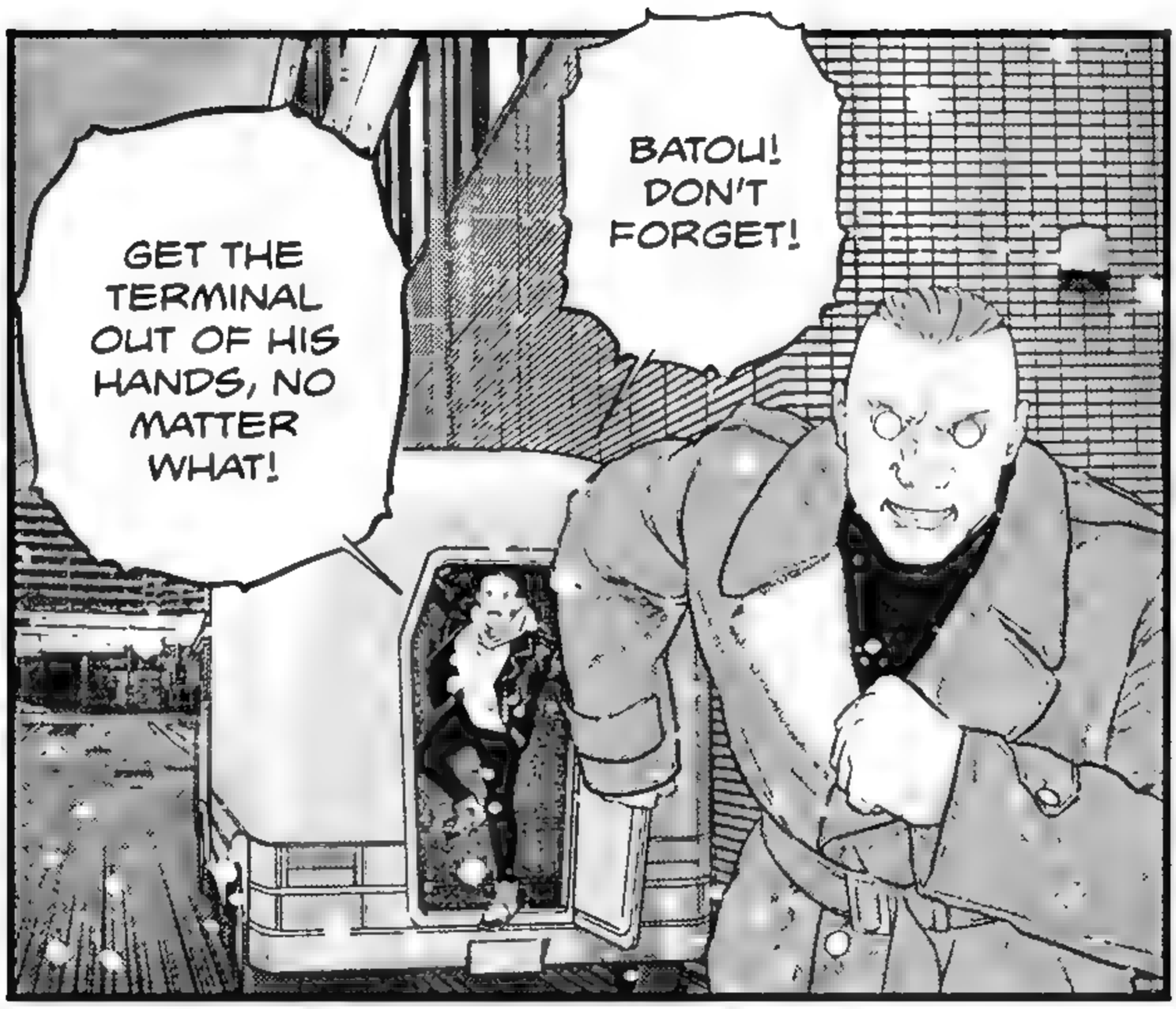

!

WHOOO!
SHUT UP AND LET ME FOCUS!
HURRY UP, ISHIKAWA. SHE'S GONNA TAKE THE STAGE ANY SECOND.

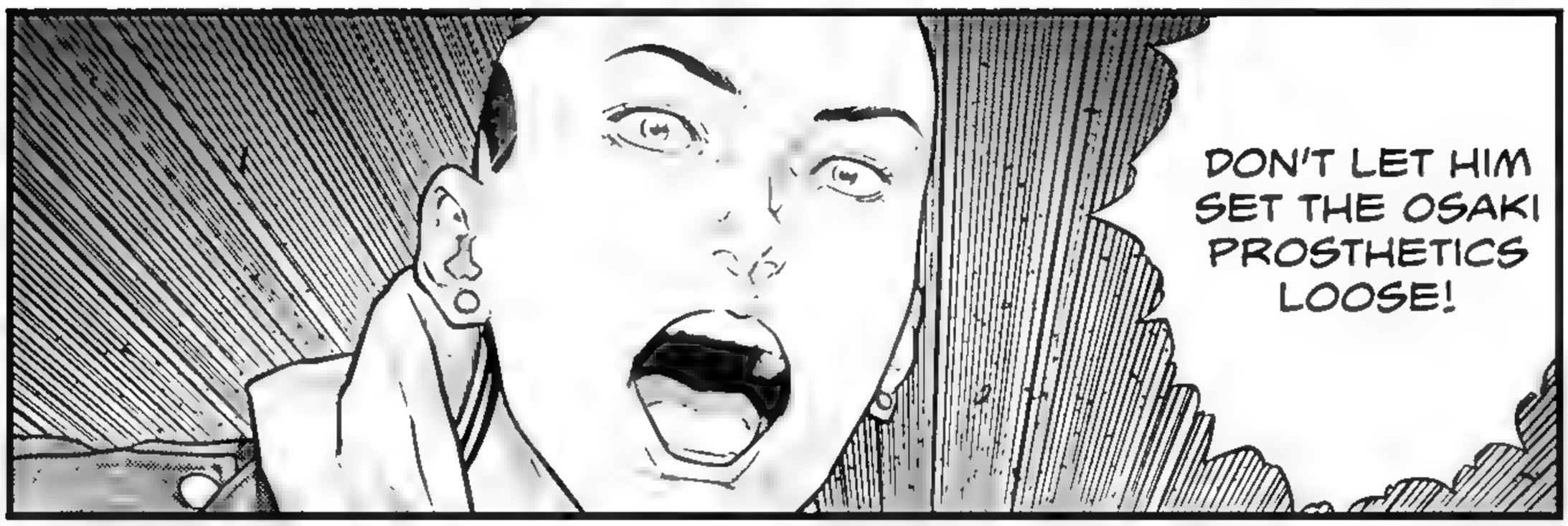
I'VE GOT EYES ON SHOH!
FOUND HIM!

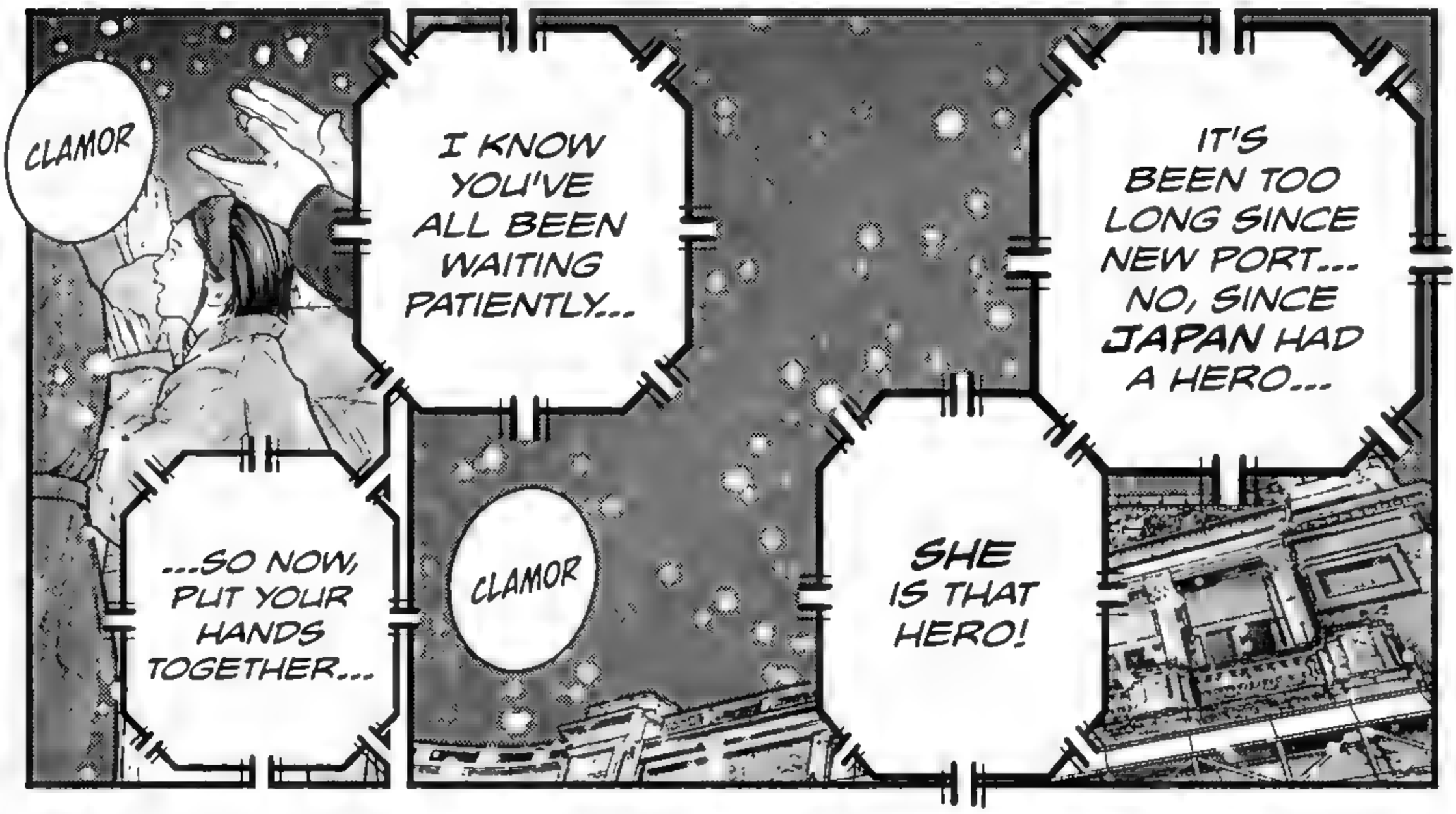
MY TURN. *FINALLY.*

TWERP'S TRYING TO BLEND IN WITH THE CROWD.
HE'S IN SPECTATOR BLOCK C3.


GET THE TERMINAL OUT OF HIS HANDS, NO MATTER WHAT!
BATOU! DON'T FORGET!

I'LL BE TAKIN' CREDIT FOR THIS ONE!
FWAM


DON'T LET HIM SET THE OSAKI PROSTHETICS LOOSE!


CLAMOR
I KNOW YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING PATIENTLY...
IT'S BEEN TOO LONG SINCE NEW PORT... NO, SINCE JAPAN HAD A HERO...
...SO NOW, PUT YOUR HANDS TOGETHER...
CLAMOR
SHE IS THAT HERO!

...FOR OUR VERY OWN MAYOR-TO-BE...

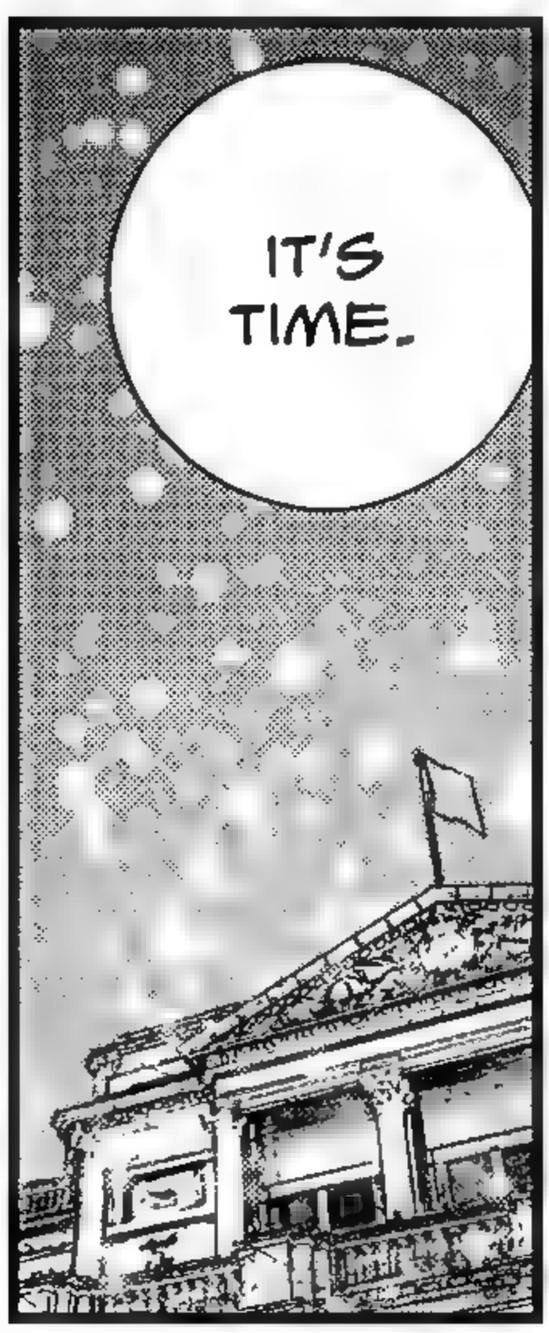
...SHINRA MIKOMOTO!

GRIP

WHOOOOOO!

THE LIFE I PLEDGED TO NEW PORT IS IN *HERE*.

WHOOOOO!
...


IT'S TIME.

WHOO!
SHE'S ALREADY CLIMBING ONSTAGE!
THEY'RE AHEAD OF SCHEDULE!

...DAD.
HERE GOES...

THE GHOST IN THE SHELL

攻殻機動隊

THE HUMAN ALGORITHM

23

INAUGURATION SPEECH

...TO ATTEND THIS INAUGURATION CEREMONY IN PERSON. I AM TRULY GRATEFUL.
...THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING OUT TODAY DESPITE THE UNFORTUNATE WEATHER...
AS I'M SURE YOU'RE ALL WELL AWARE BY NOW...

PEOPLE OF NEW PORT...
FLAP
FLAP

...I AM SHINRA MIKOMOTO, YOUR NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR.

WE KNOW YOU WON'T LET US DOWN!

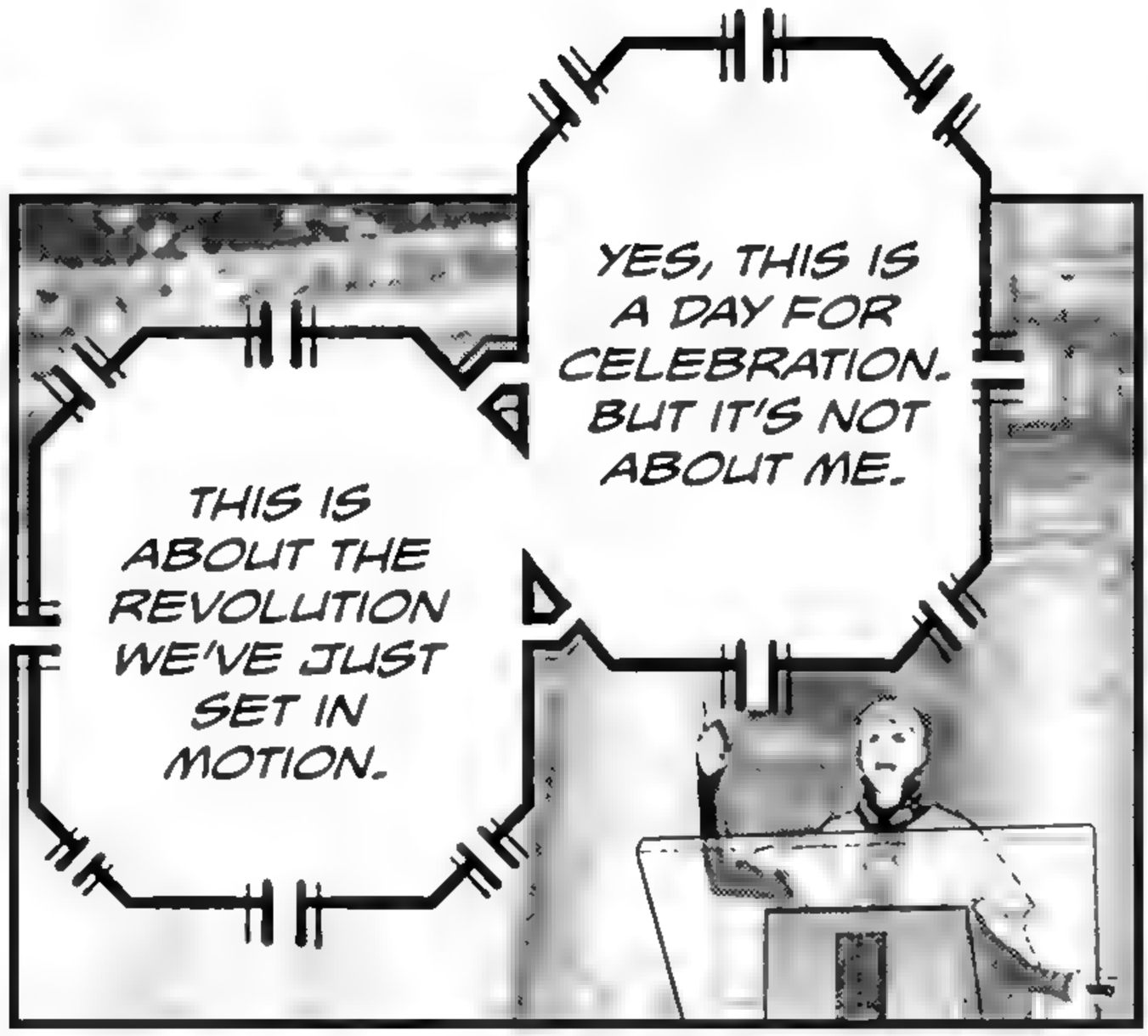
Woooooo!

MIKOMOTO!

THANK YOU, ALL.

THANK YOU.

Woooooo!

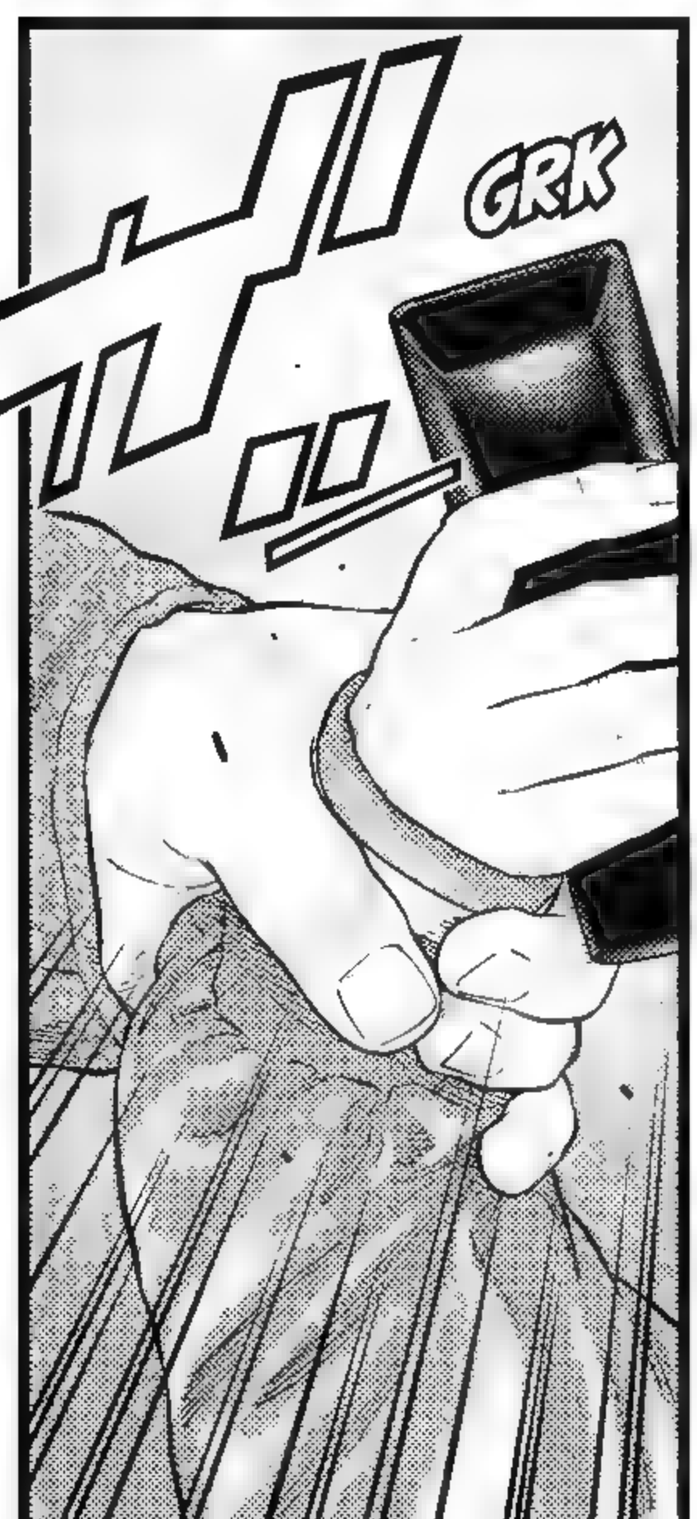

YES, THIS IS A DAY FOR CELEBRATION. BUT IT'S NOT ABOUT ME.
THIS IS ABOUT THE REVOLUTION WE'VE JUST SET IN MOTION.

Newport

WRONG.

TODAY, MY FATHER GETS HIS VENGEANCE.
BEEEEEEP
THIS IS A DAY OF RECKONING!

I PLEDGE MY LIFE TO FIGHTING FOR ALL OF YOU.
NOTHING CAN HOLD US BACK NOW. LET US RISE AGAIN LIKE PHOENIXES OUT OF THE ASHES, INTO A NEW AND BETTER FUTURE!


GRK

WHAT'S GOING ON?! WHY WON'T IT—
BEEEEP
JAB
HI
WH...?!
JAB
HI
BEEEEP

?!

EVERY OSAKI PROSTHETIC HERE GOT THE VIP TREATMENT. WE GAVE 'EM THEIR VERY OWN BOX SEATS.

BANG

BANG

CREAK

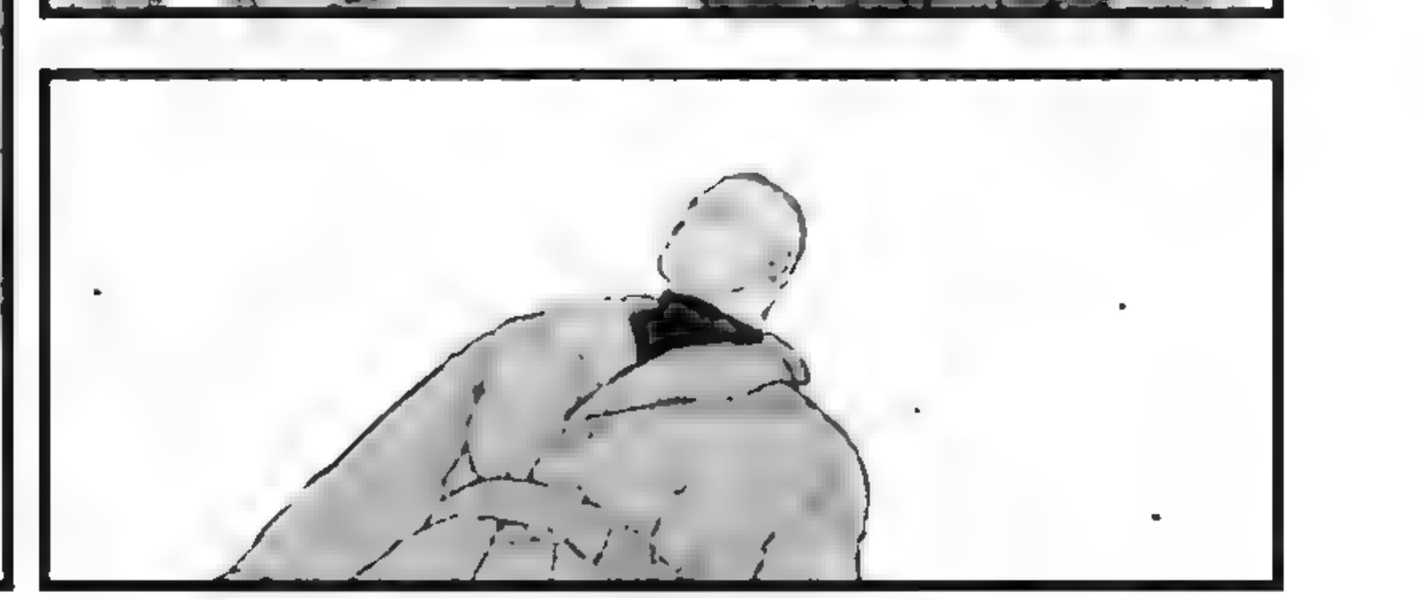
WHAT RE YOU- LET GO!

DON'T BOTHER.

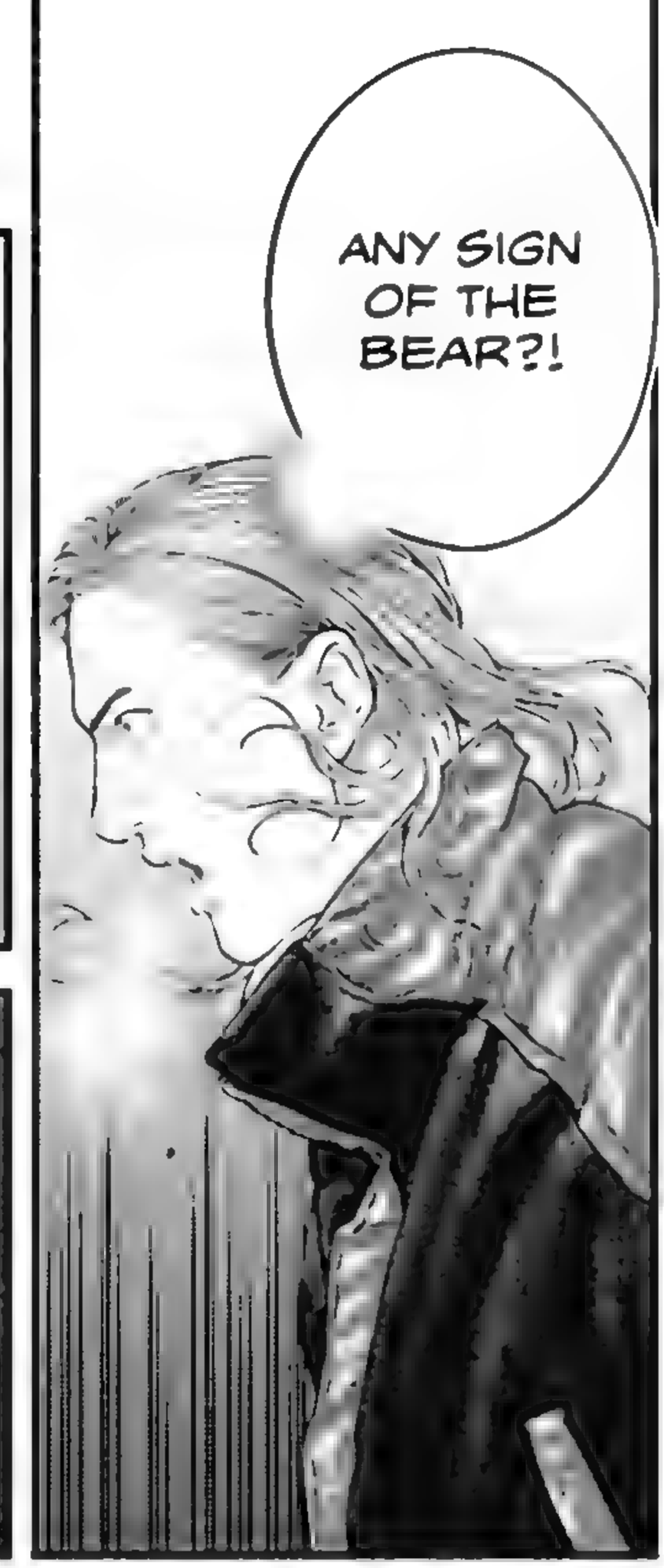
KLAK
NGH!
WHUMP
BET YOU WERE HOPIN' TO SHAKE THINGS UP AT THE VENUE AND GIVE THE BEAR HIS CHANCE TO SLIP IN. TOO BAD WE SAW RIGHT THROUGH YOUR PLAN.
AW, GEEZ. DOIN' ALL RIGHT, BUDDY?
MURMUR
MURMUR
SORRY. DON'T WORRY 'BOUT HIM.
JUST A LITTLE STOMACH TROUBLE.
GAME OVER, KID.
NOW...

...AS WE CELEBRATE THIS JOYOUS VICTORY!

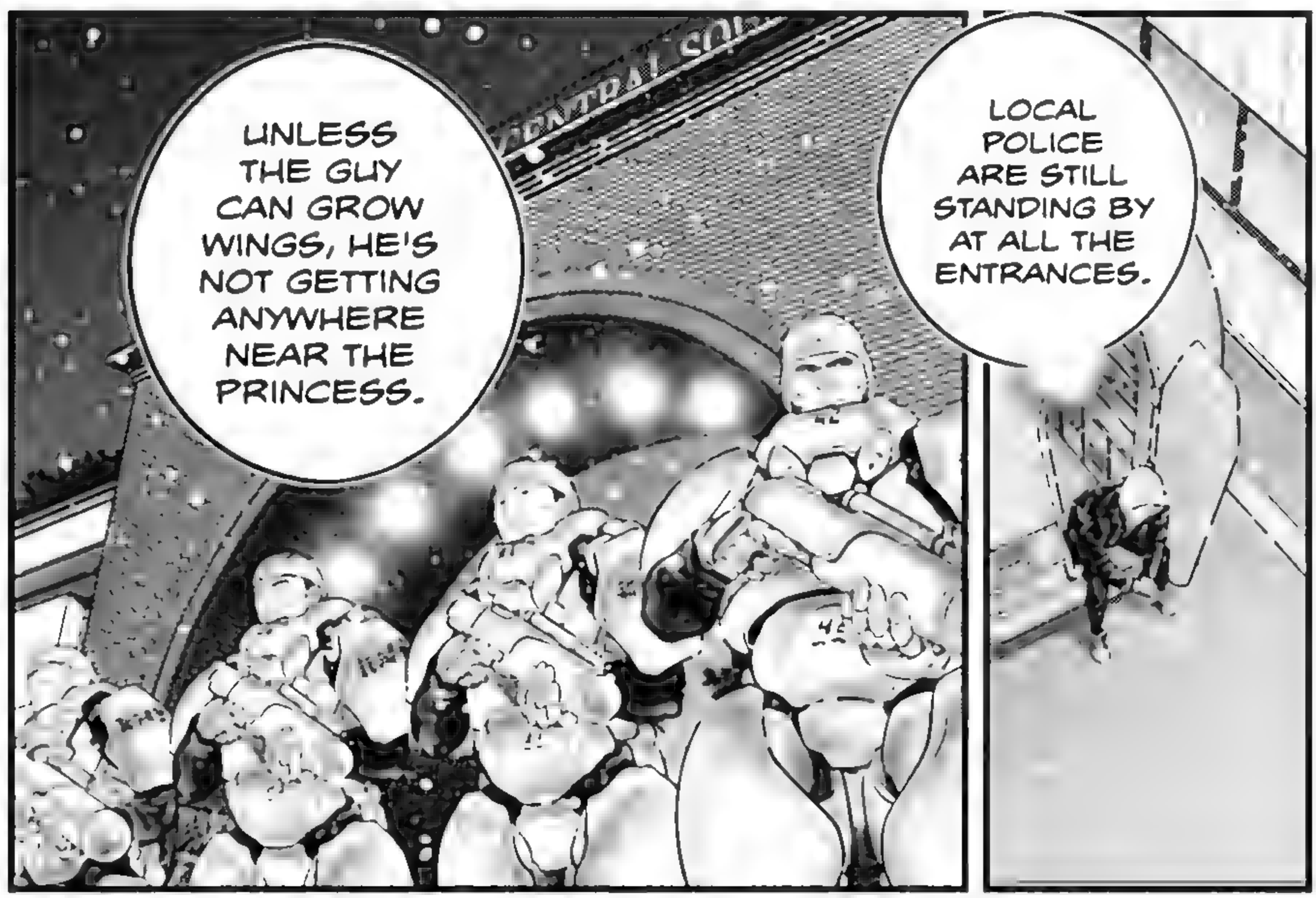
...LET US ALL RAISE OUR VOICES AS ONE...

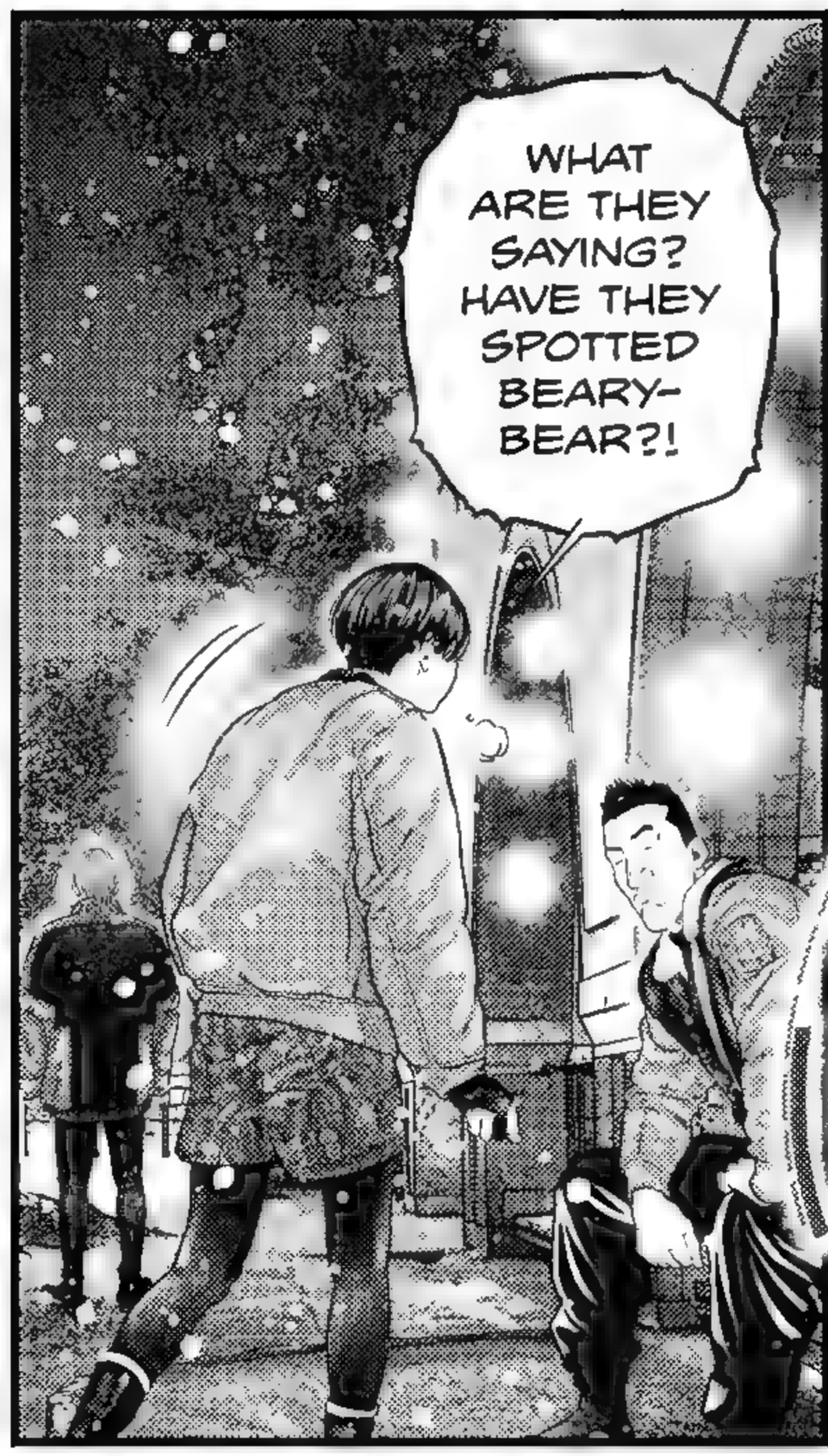


NOT FROM WHERE I'M SITTING. VENUE'S CLEAR.


ANY SIGN OF THE BEAR?!

NOTHIN' HERE, EITHER.


UNLESS THE GUY CAN GROW WINGS, HE'S NOT GETTING ANYWHERE NEAR THE PRINCESS.
LOCAL POLICE ARE STILL STANDING BY AT ALL THE ENTRANCES.


WHAT ARE THEY SAYING? HAVE THEY SPOTTED BEARY-BEAR?!

NICE! WE DID IT!
...

I'VE GOT A FUCHIKOMA AT EVERY POSSIBLE SNIPER NEST.
TALK TO ME, SAITO. THINK HE'LL GO FOR THE SNIPER OPTION?

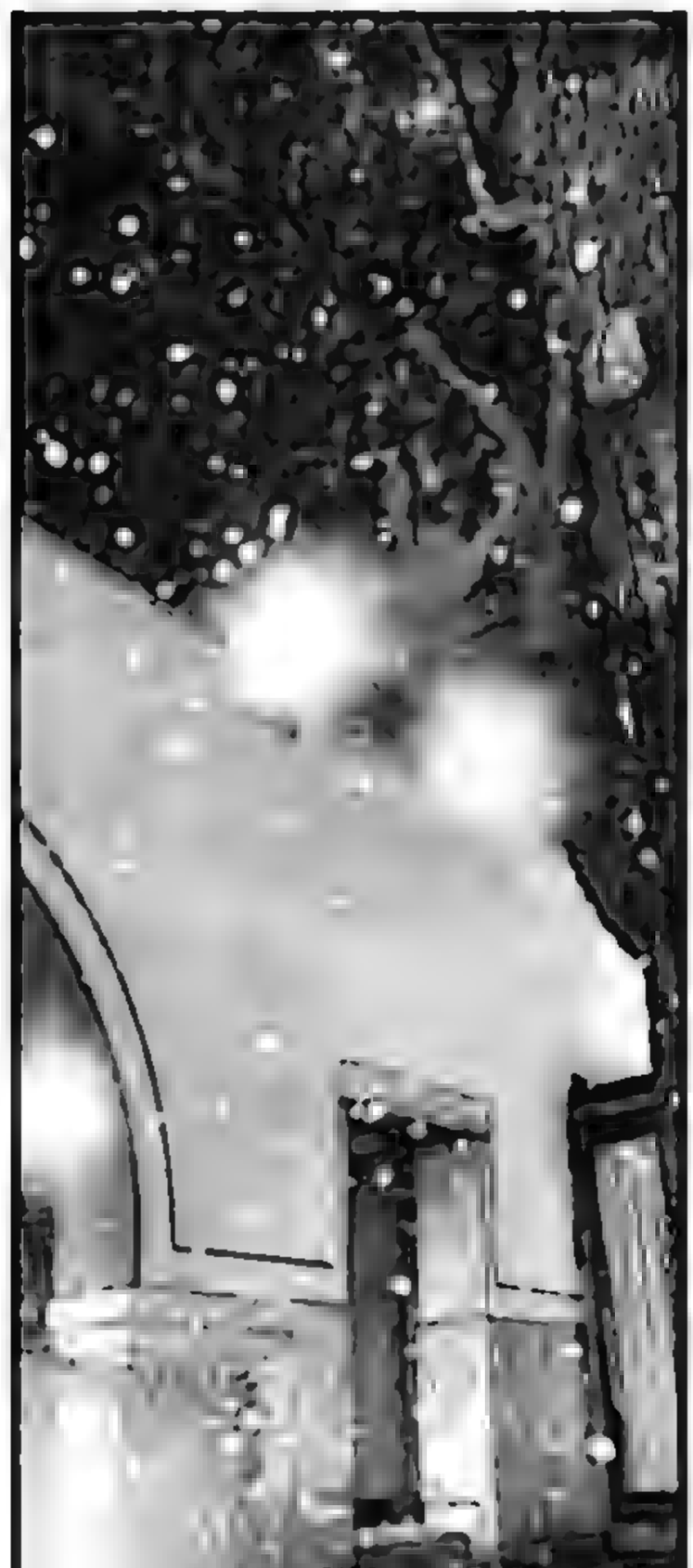
CRISIS AVERTED. MAYOR MIKOMOTO'S SAFE.
THEIR PLAN'S DEAD IN THE WATER.
SO HE'S NOT GONNA ATTACK THE VENUE?!

RIGHT, TOGUSA?

HE CAN'T. HE'S GOT NO WAY IN.

LEAVE THE CEREMONY TO PAZ 'N BORMA. THEY'VE GOT THIS.

SHOULDN'T WE GO SEARCH THE CITY?

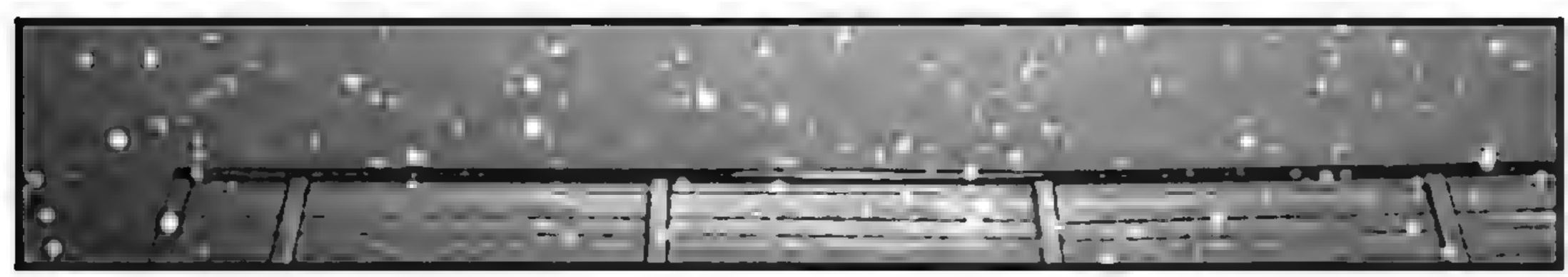


TARGET'S RIGHT THERE. SO WHERE'S YOUR BULLET?

MUST'VE RUN OUT OF DRUGS, HUH? BET HE'S LYING IN A DITCH SOMEWHERE.

"CHERISH THE ERRORS." KAZUYUKI SURE WAS FULL OF SHIT.
HEH.

WELL, I GUESS THE SHOW'S OVER.
TIME TO TAKE YOU BACK TO A LAB AND CARVE YOU UP. FOR SCIENCE.



HE'LL SHOW.

NO.

ALL AGENTS, CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE VENUE.

YOU'RE THE BOSS.

HE'S A HUNTER.

IF HE COMES CHARGING IN, EVEN THESE LOCAL COPS WON'T BE ABLE TO MISS.

WHA?!

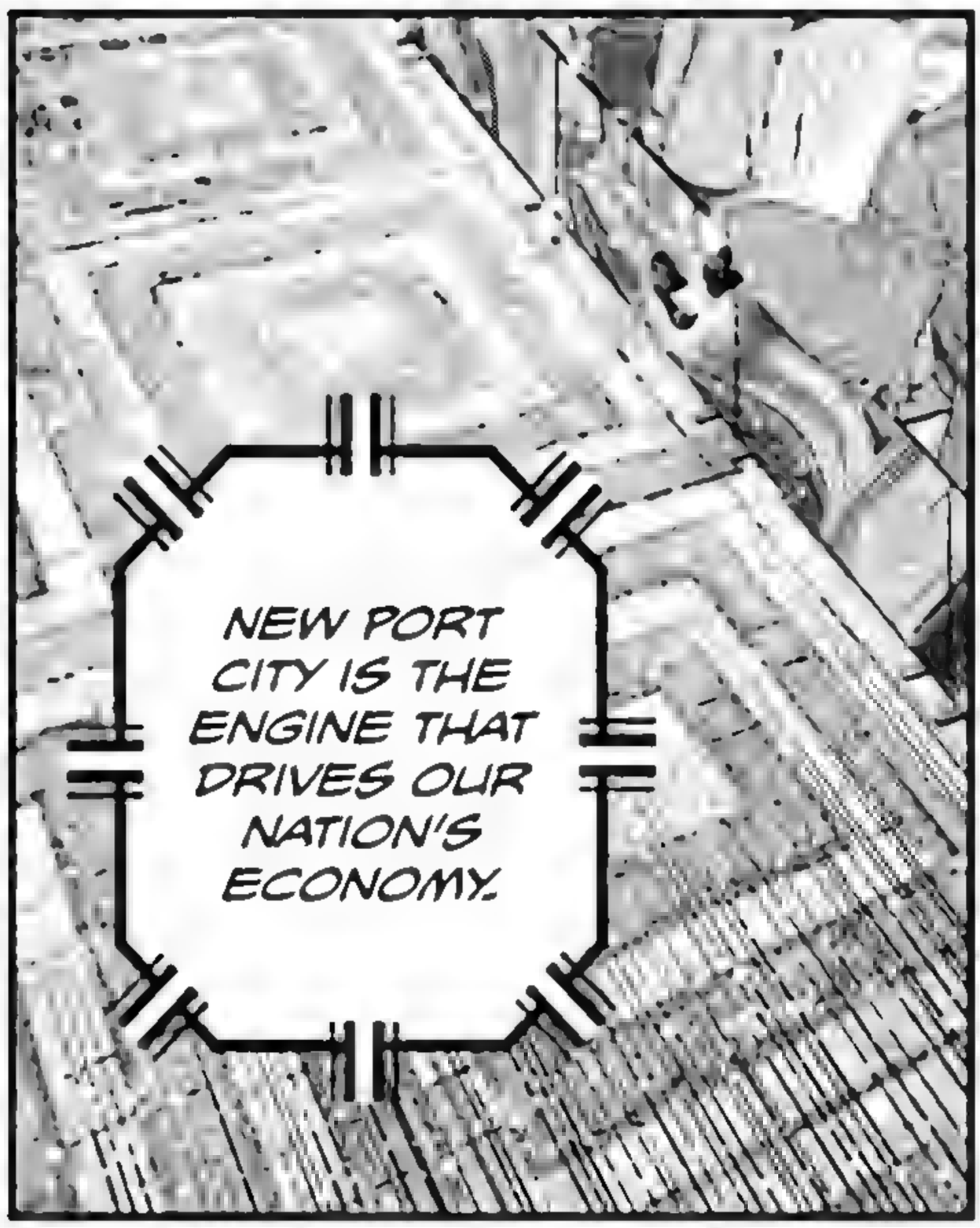
HE DOESN'T STOP UNTIL HE'S CAUGHT HIS QUARRY.

YEAH, BUT...HE *CAN'T GET IN.*

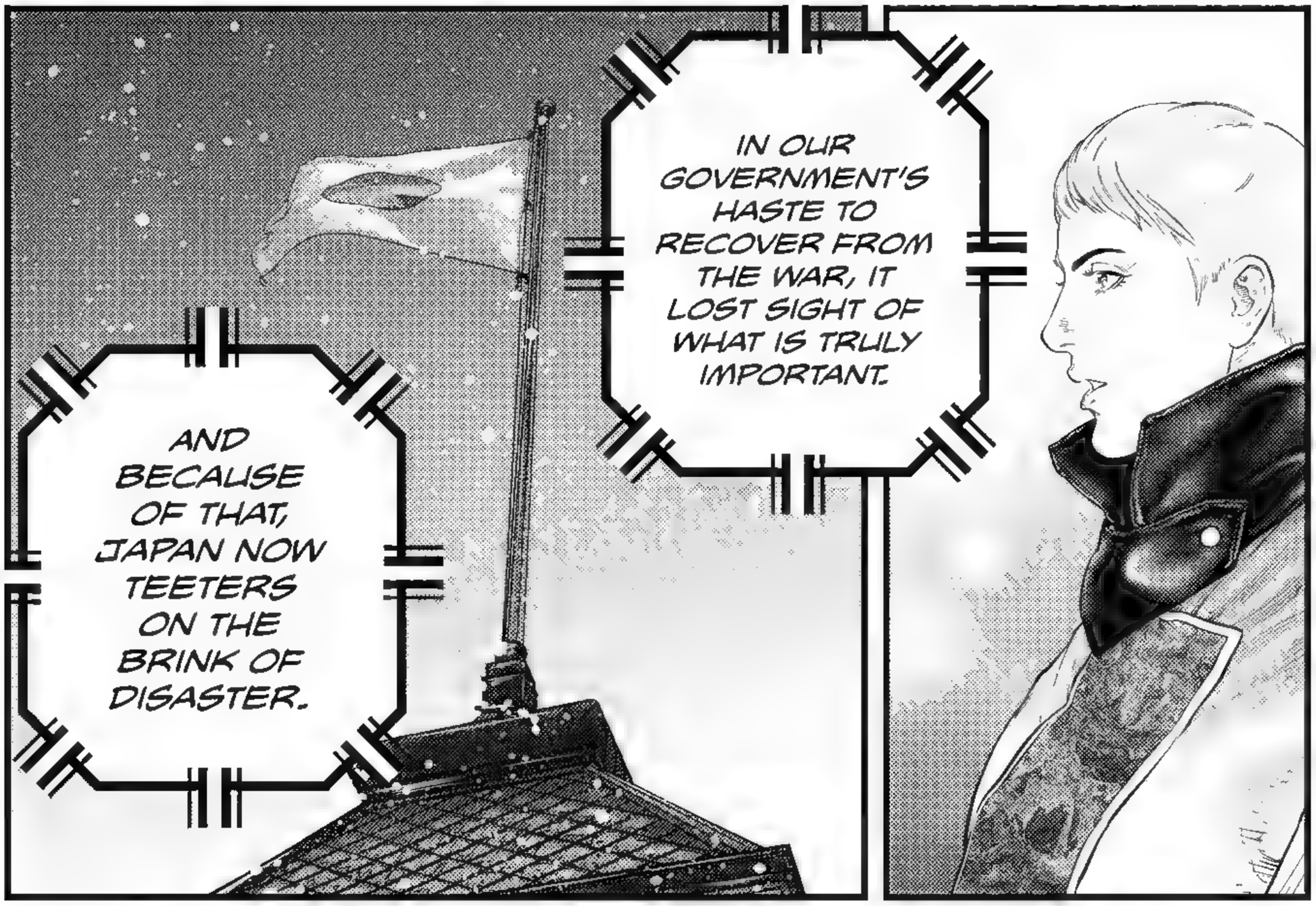
HMPH.
DON'T FEEL LIKE TALKIN', HUH?

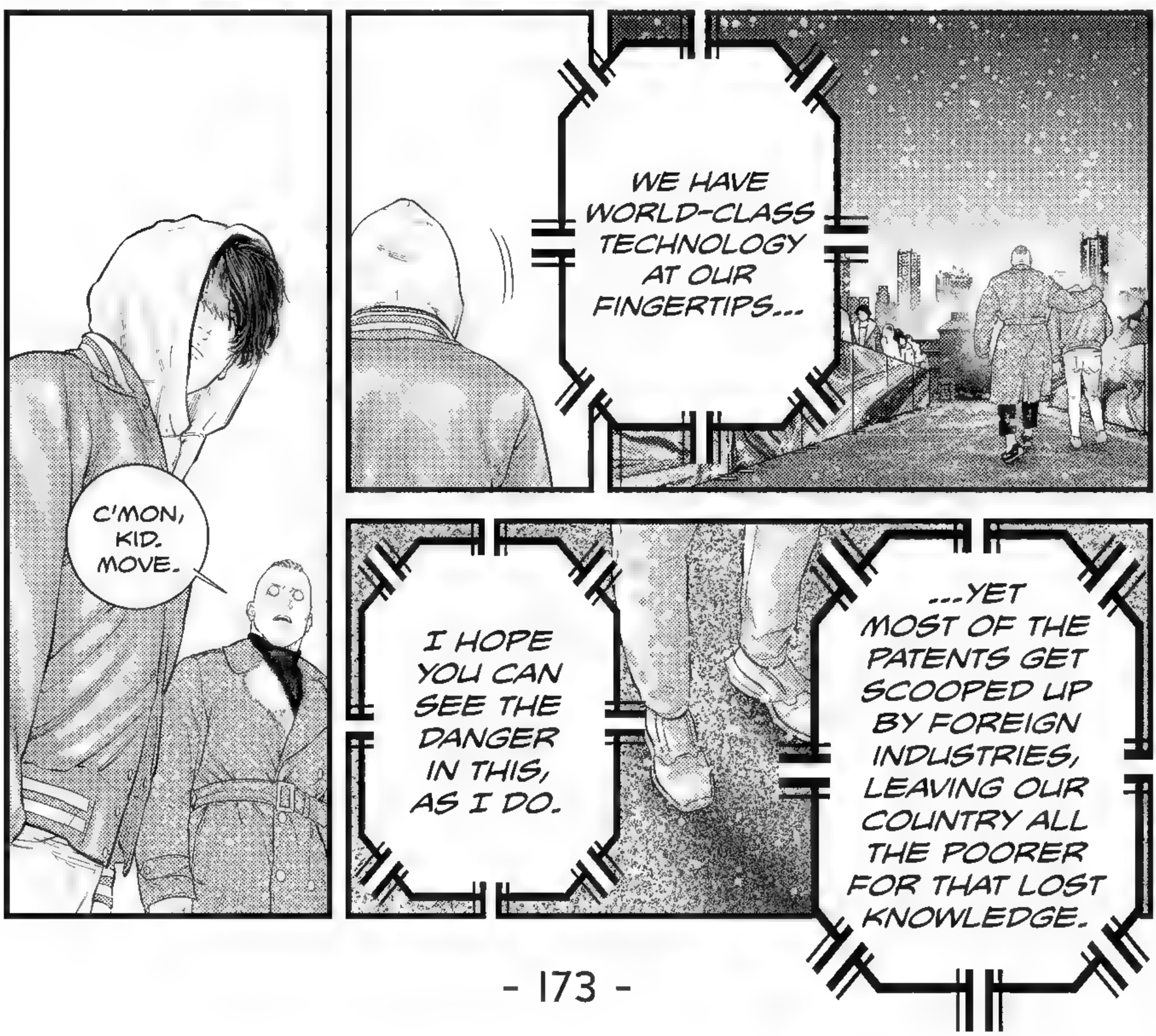
SKRCH

HEY, KID. WHERE'S YOUR PARTNER AT?


NEW PORT CITY IS THE ENGINE THAT DRIVES OUR NATION'S ECONOMY.

FINE BY ME. YOU AND ME CAN HAVE A NICE, LONG CHAT BACK IN HOLDING.


AND BECAUSE OF THAT, JAPAN NOW TEETERS ON THE BRINK OF DISASTER.
IN OUR GOVERNMENT'S HASTE TO RECOVER FROM THE WAR, IT LOST SIGHT OF WHAT IS TRULY IMPORTANT.


C'MON, KID. MOVE.
WE HAVE WORLD-CLASS TECHNOLOGY AT OUR FINGERTIPS...
I HOPE YOU CAN SEE THE DANGER IN THIS, AS I DO.
...YET MOST OF THE PATENTS GET SCOOPED UP BY FOREIGN INDUSTRIES, LEAVING OUR COUNTRY ALL THE POORER FOR THAT LOST KNOWLEDGE.

WE MUST PROTECT THESE TECHNOLOGIES LIKE WE WOULD ANY OTHER NATIONAL TREASURE...

UNLESS WE ACT NOW, OUR NATION WILL FALL INTO RUIN.

...FOR THEREIN LIES THE GREATEST PROMISE OF PROSPERITY FOR THE JAPANESE PEOPLE!

IF WE ARE TO SURVIVE, WE MUST LEAD THE WAY IN TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT.

HUH?

...LIES. IT'S ALL LIES.

I HOLD NOTHING BUT THE GREATEST GRATITUDE AND RESPECT FOR OUR NATION'S ENGINEERS...

SKRRRRT

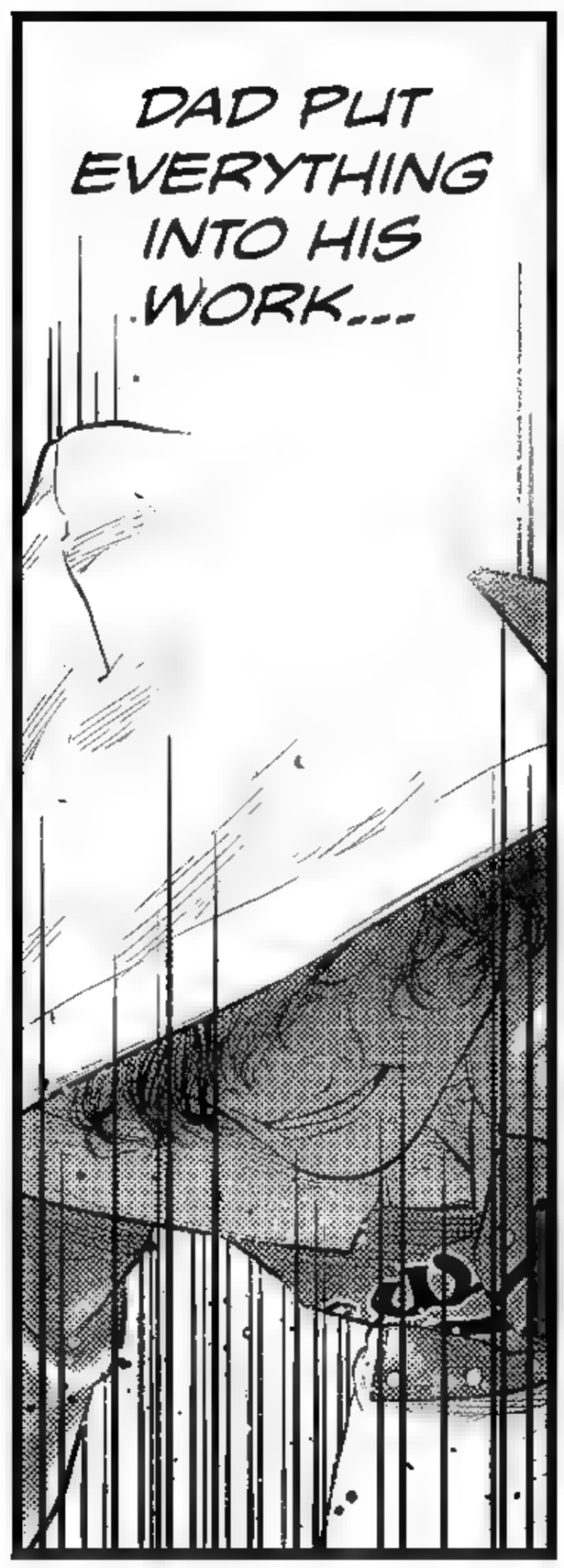
WHOOPSIE-DAISY.

THUD

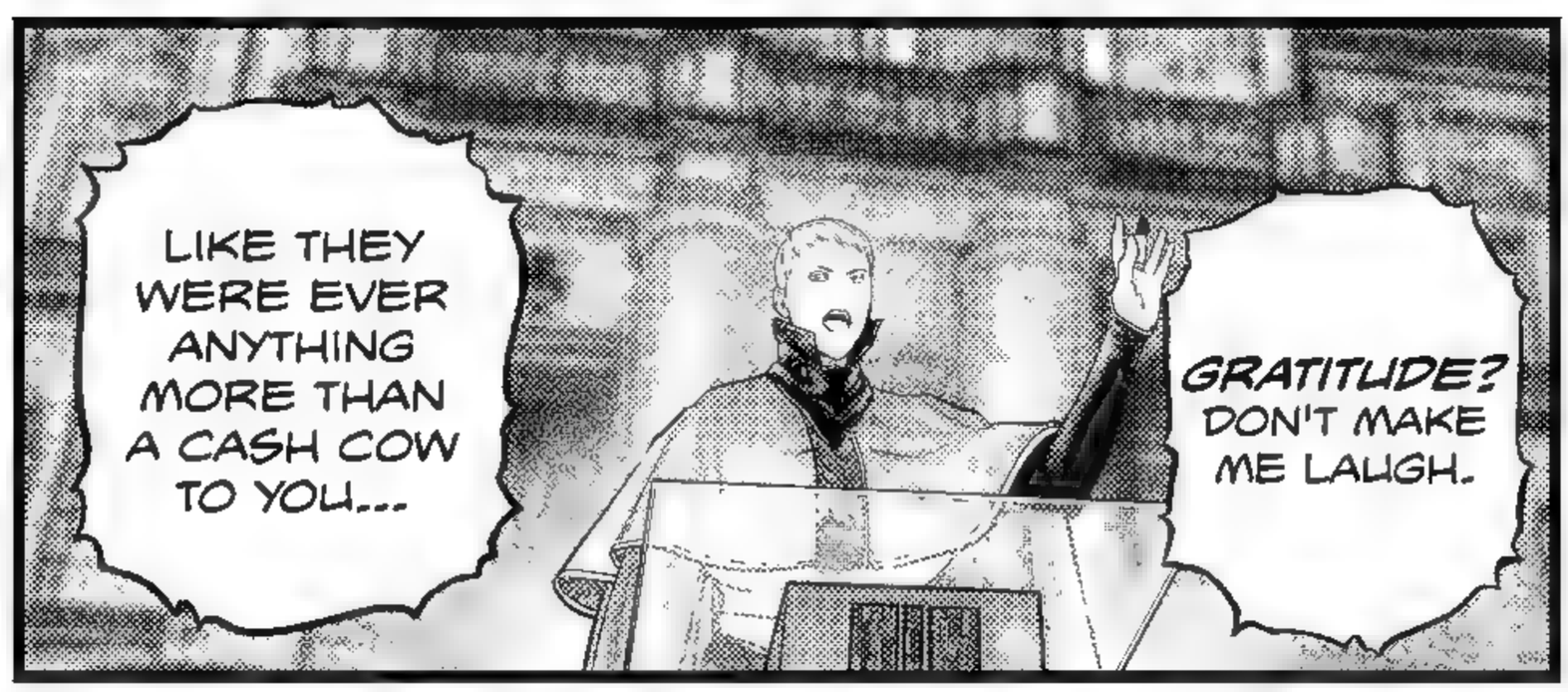
DASH

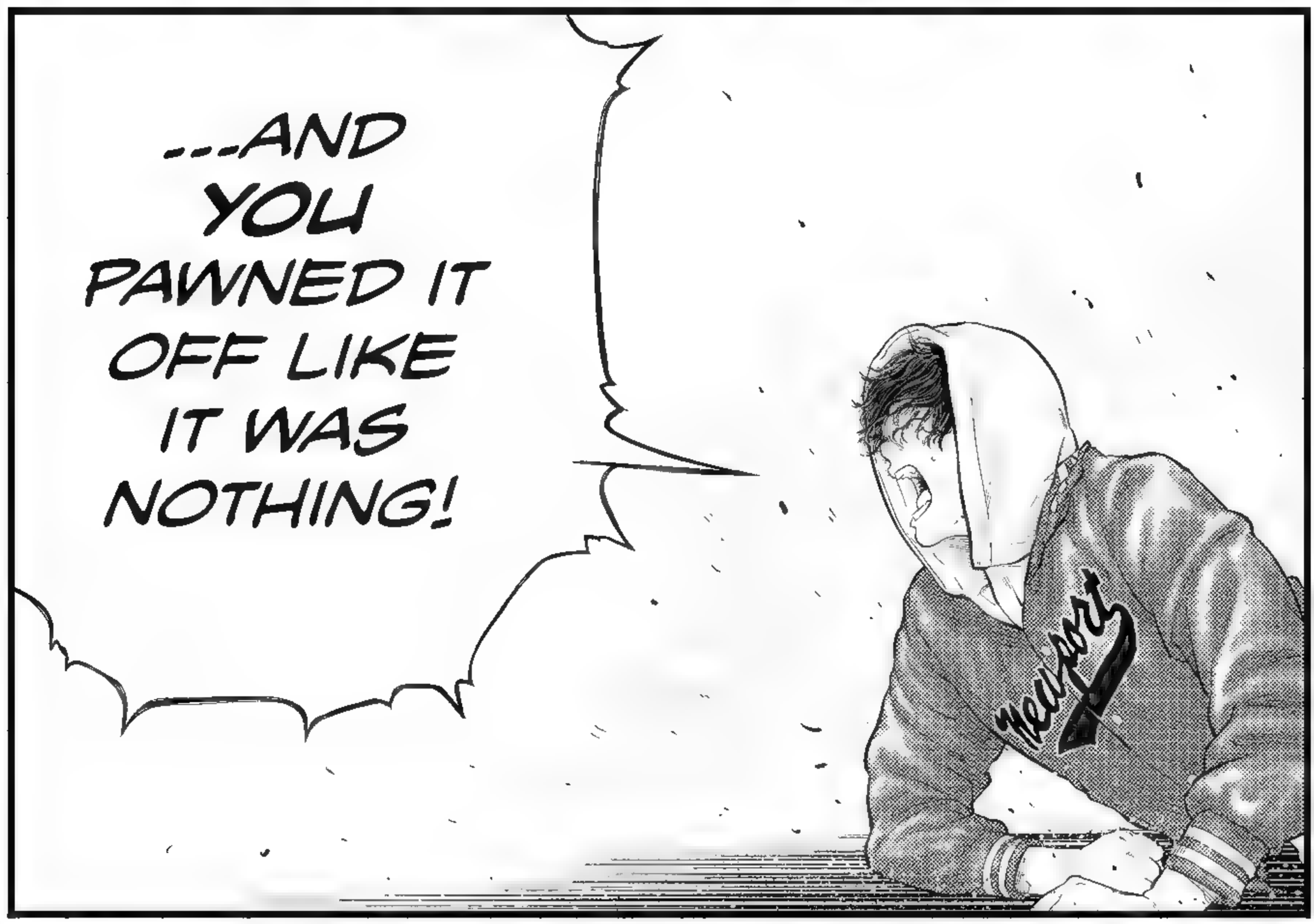
I VOW TO STAND FIRM AND FACE THESE PERILOUS TIDES HEAD ON!

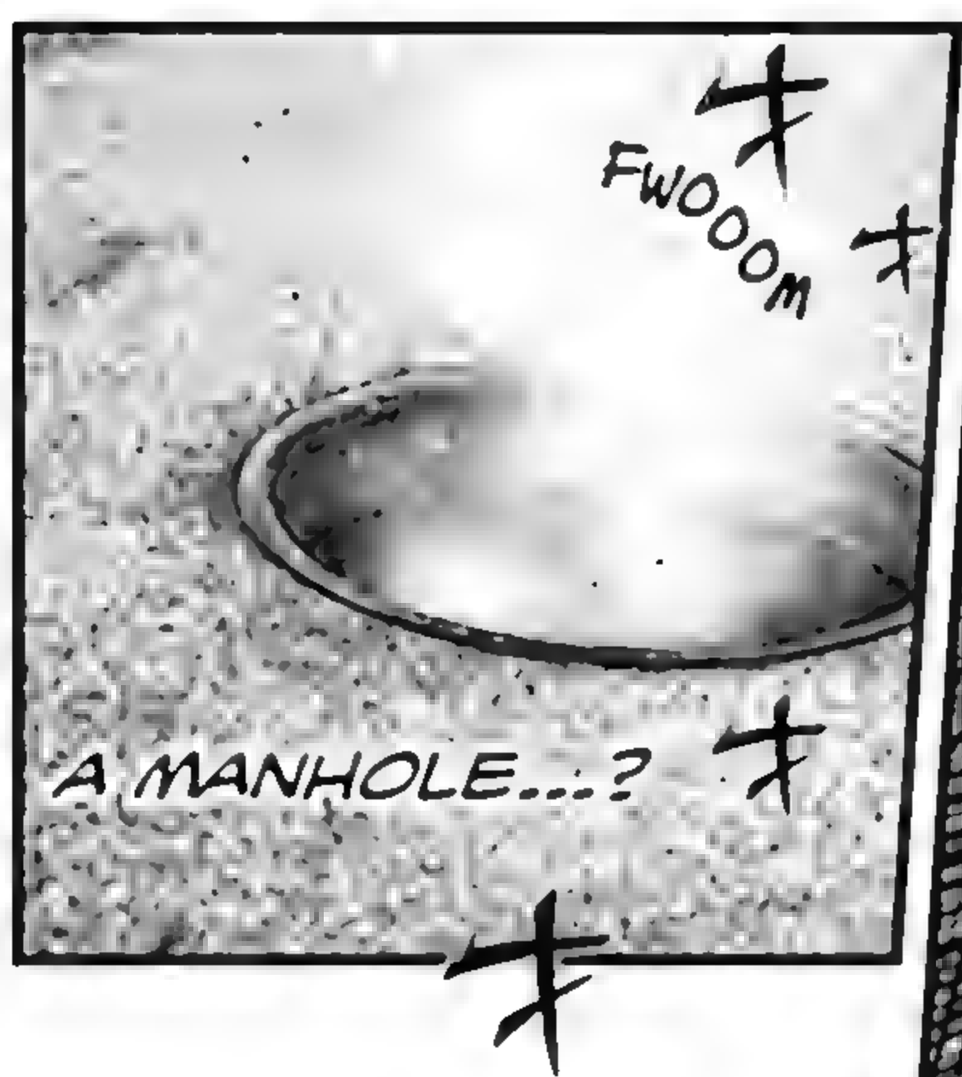
BULLSHIT...


DAD PUT EVERYTHING INTO HIS WORK...

THEY'RE LOOKING TO SELL YOMOTSU'S TECH TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER.
SHINRA CUT A DEAL WITH OTOMO.


LIKE THEY WERE EVER ANYTHING MORE THAN A CASH COW TO YOU...
GRATITUDE? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.


---AND YOU PAWNED IT OFF LIKE IT WAS NOTHING!

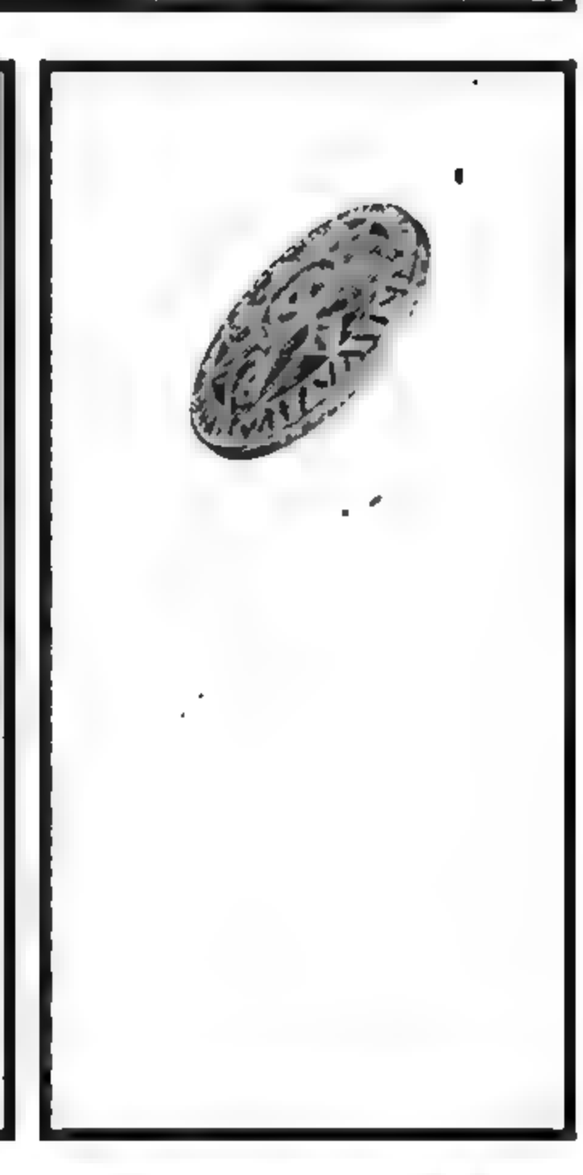

FWOOOM
A MANHOLE...?

KATHOOMP
?!

SHIT. DON'T TELL ME HE'S—
PSHHH
PSHHH
?!
PSHHH
GAH!
KRAK
THE DEFENSIVE BARRIER'S—
BZZRT
THE HELL?!

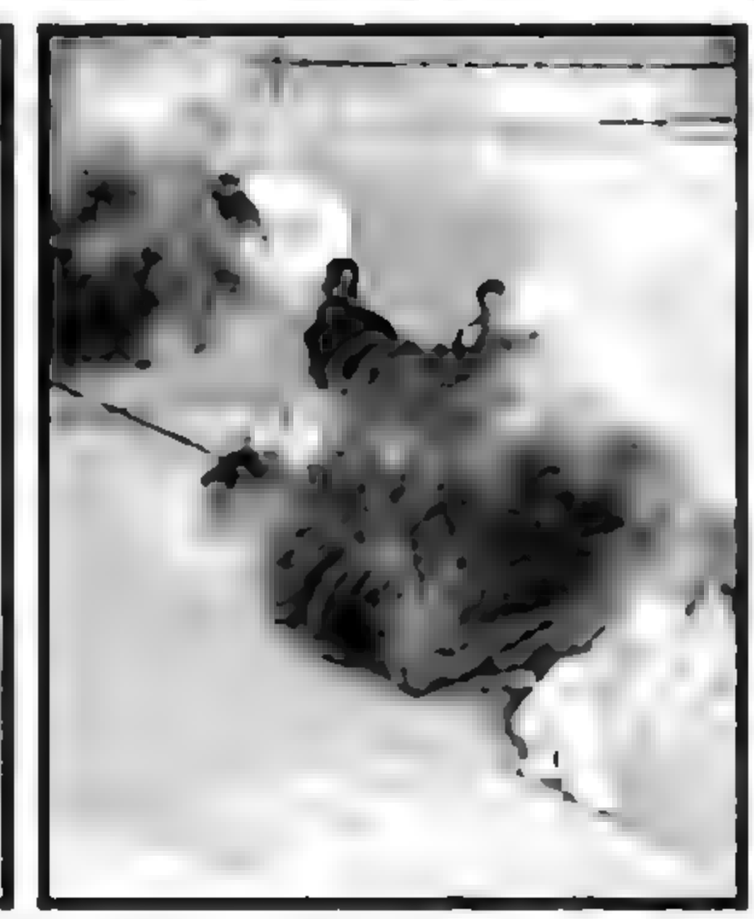
FWUMP

KA
KLANG
WHUMP



KLUNK
ROLLLL

CLAAAAANG



JUST BOMBARD THE PERSON WITH ULTRA-COMPRESSED DATA UNTIL THEY OVERLOAD...
YOU LIKE THAT? HITS LIKE A STUN GUN STRAIGHT TO THE CYBER-BRAIN.
AH, GUESS YOU CAN'T HEAR ME.
WE WIN.
FLAP

BZZT
BZZT

NUHAMA CENTRAL SQUARE

LET'S GO.
SHE'S UP THERE.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

LONG TIME NO SEE, WHITE BEAR.

THE GHOST IN THE SHELL

攻殻機動隊

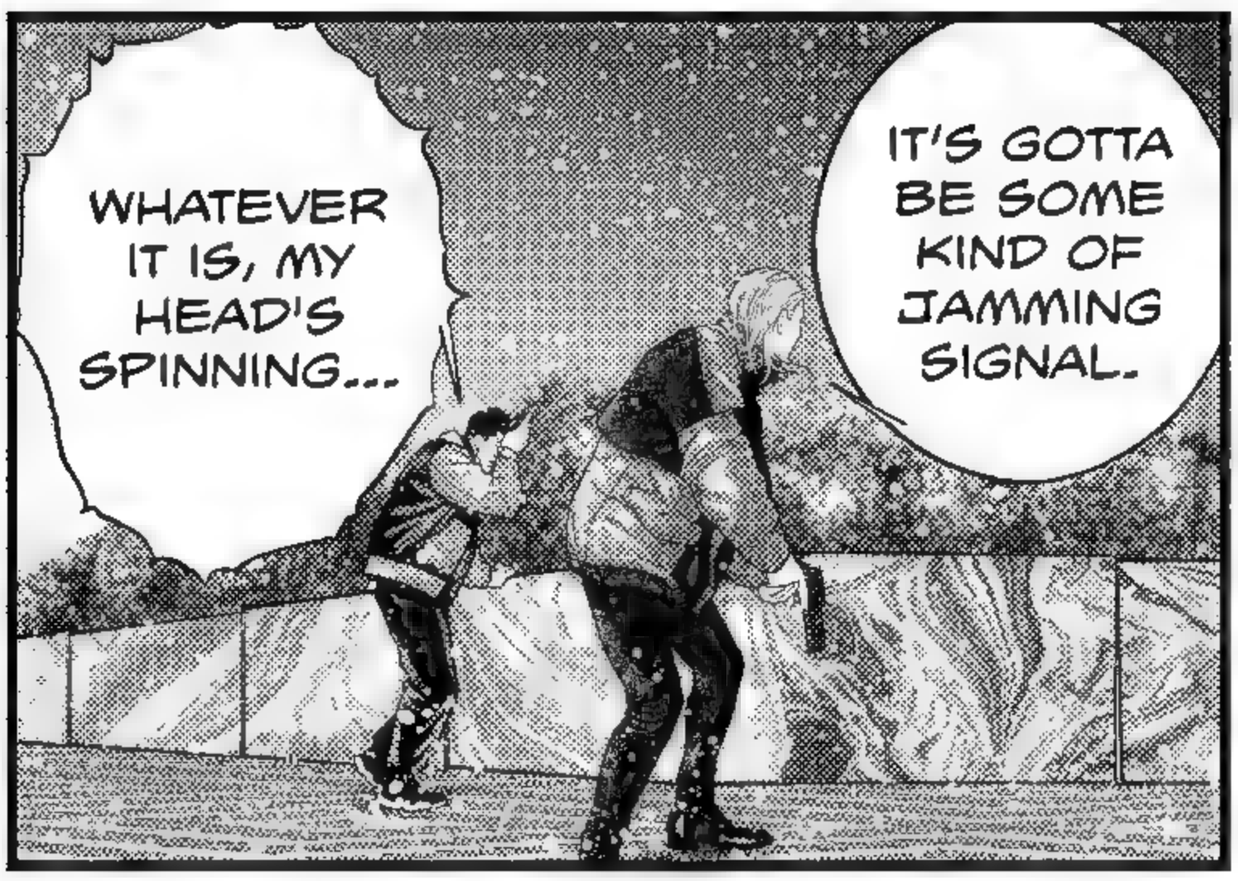
THE HUMAN ALGORITHM

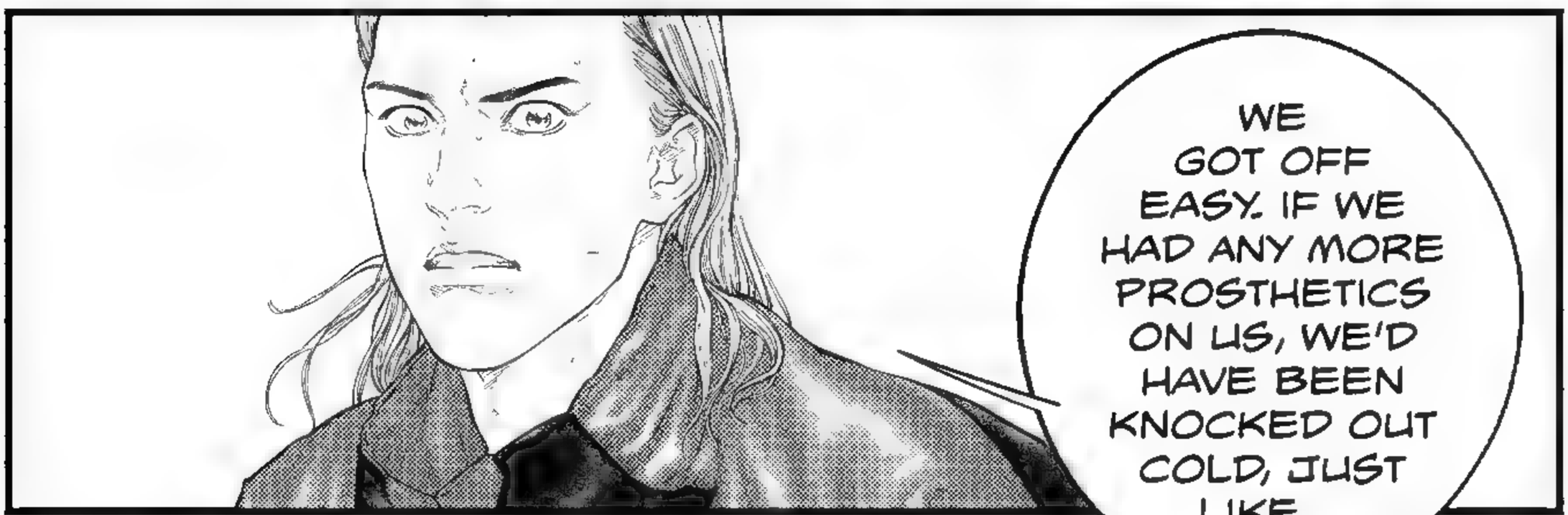
24

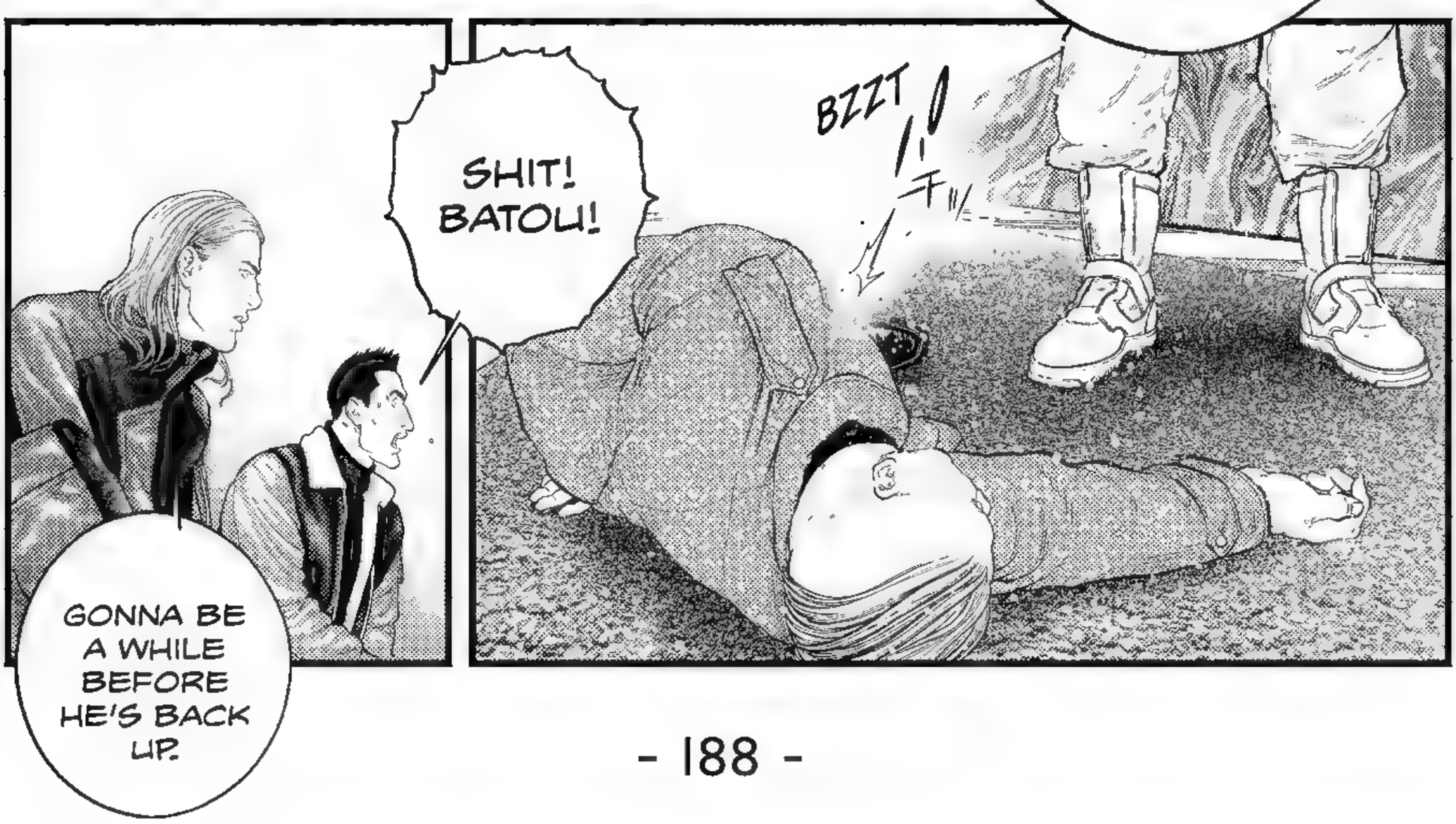
HUMANITY

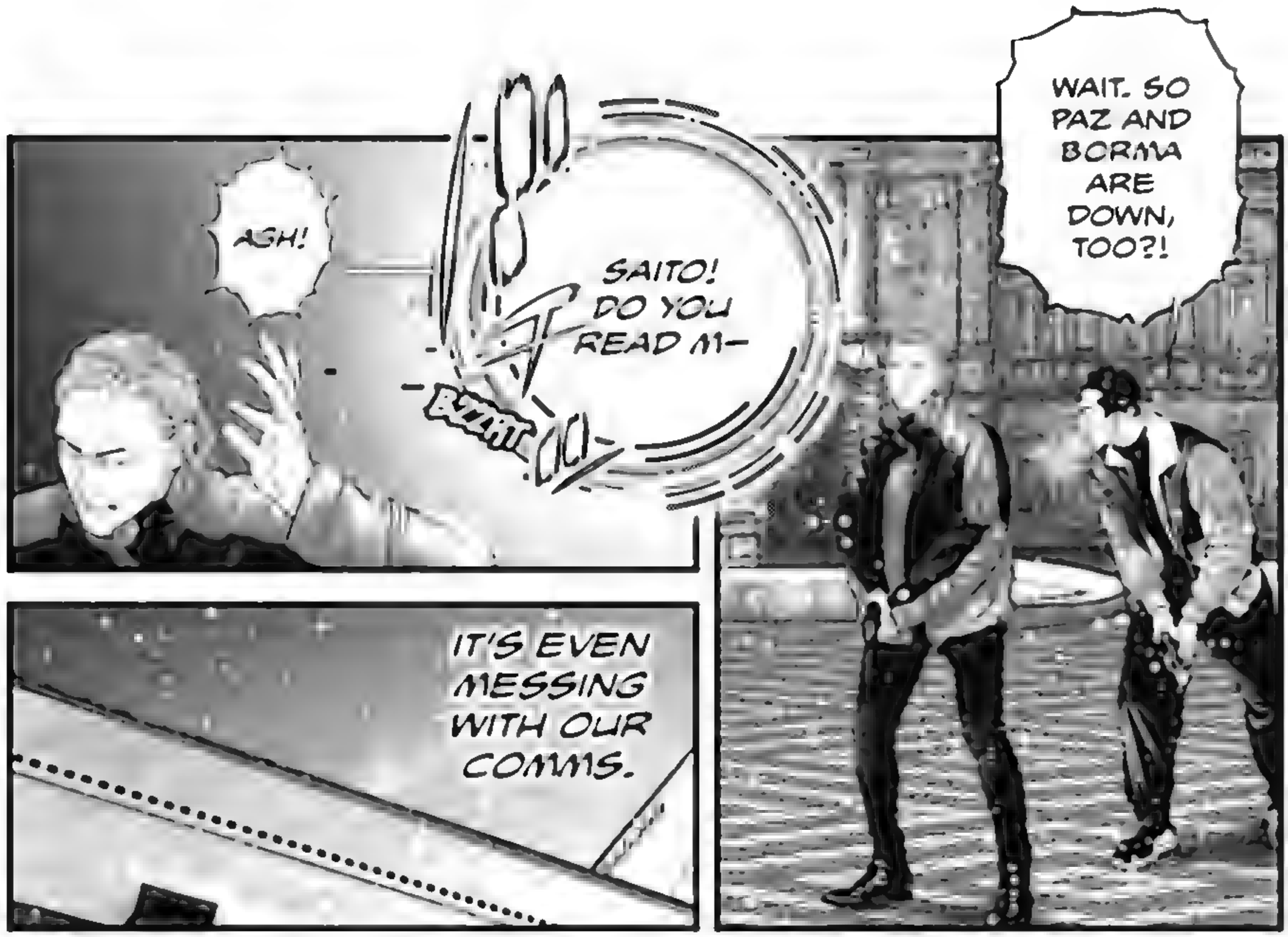
DID HASHIKAMI COOK THIS UP, TOO?

THE HELL HAPPENED HERE?!
WH—


WHATEVER IT IS, MY HEAD'S SPINNING...
IT'S GOTTA BE SOME KIND OF JAMMING SIGNAL.


WE GOT OFF EASY. IF WE HAD ANY MORE PROSTHETICS ON US, WE'D HAVE BEEN KNOCKED OUT COLD, JUST LIKE...

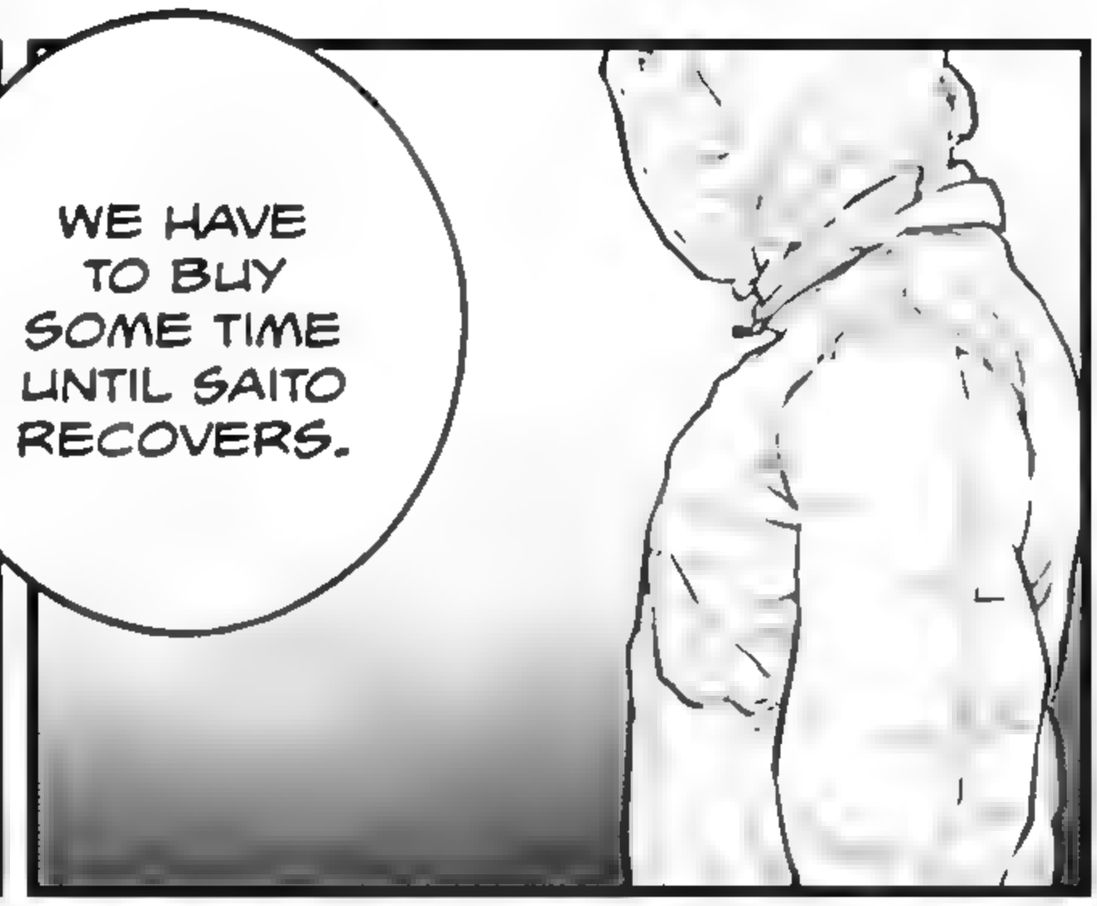

SHIT! BATOU!
BZZT
GONNA BE A WHILE BEFORE HE'S BACK UP.


AGH!
SAITO! DO YOU READ M—
BZZT
WAIT. SO PAZ AND BORMA ARE DOWN, TOO?!
IT'S EVEN MESSING WITH OUR COMMS.

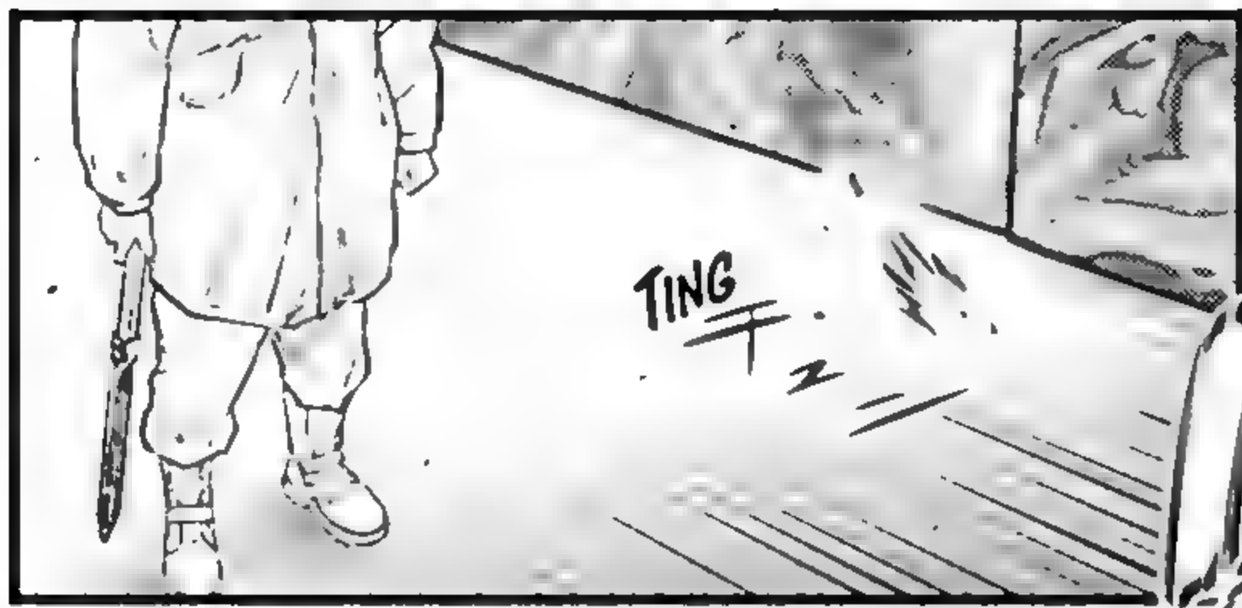
BZZT

NGH...

HOW LONG'S THAT GONNA TAKE?

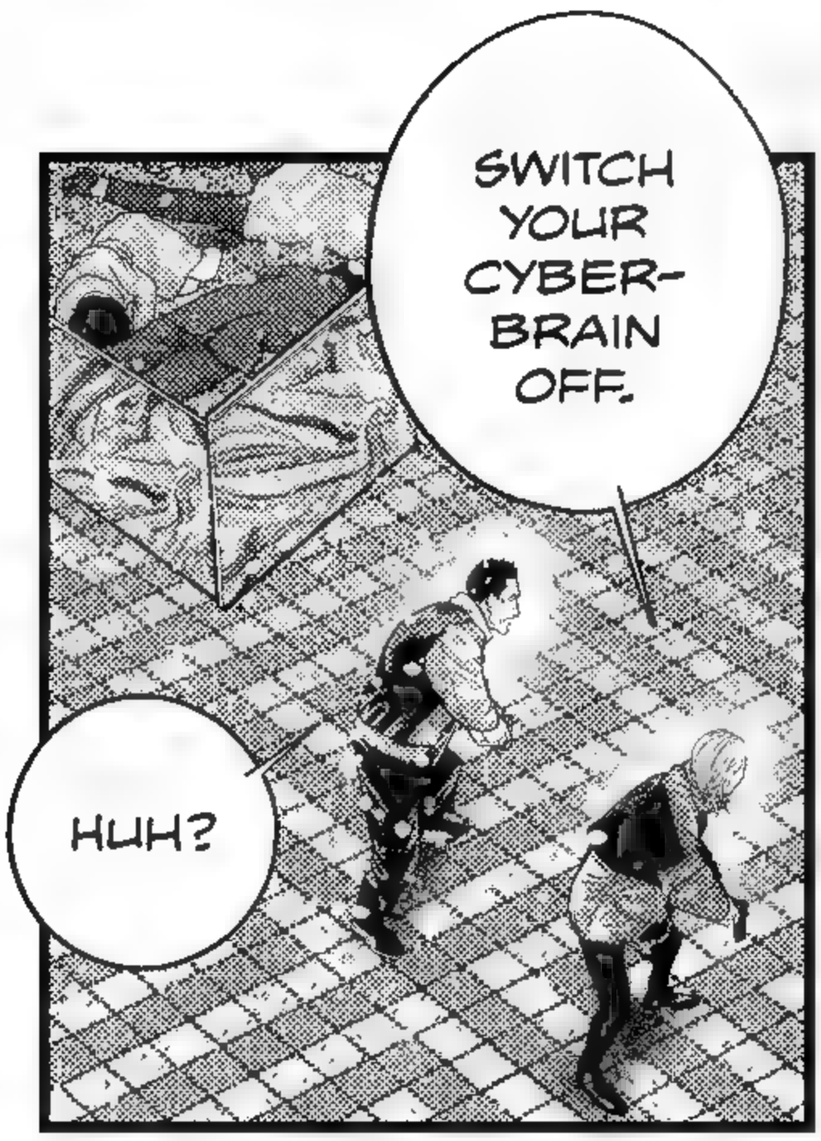

WE HAVE TO BUY SOME TIME UNTIL SAITO RECOVERS.

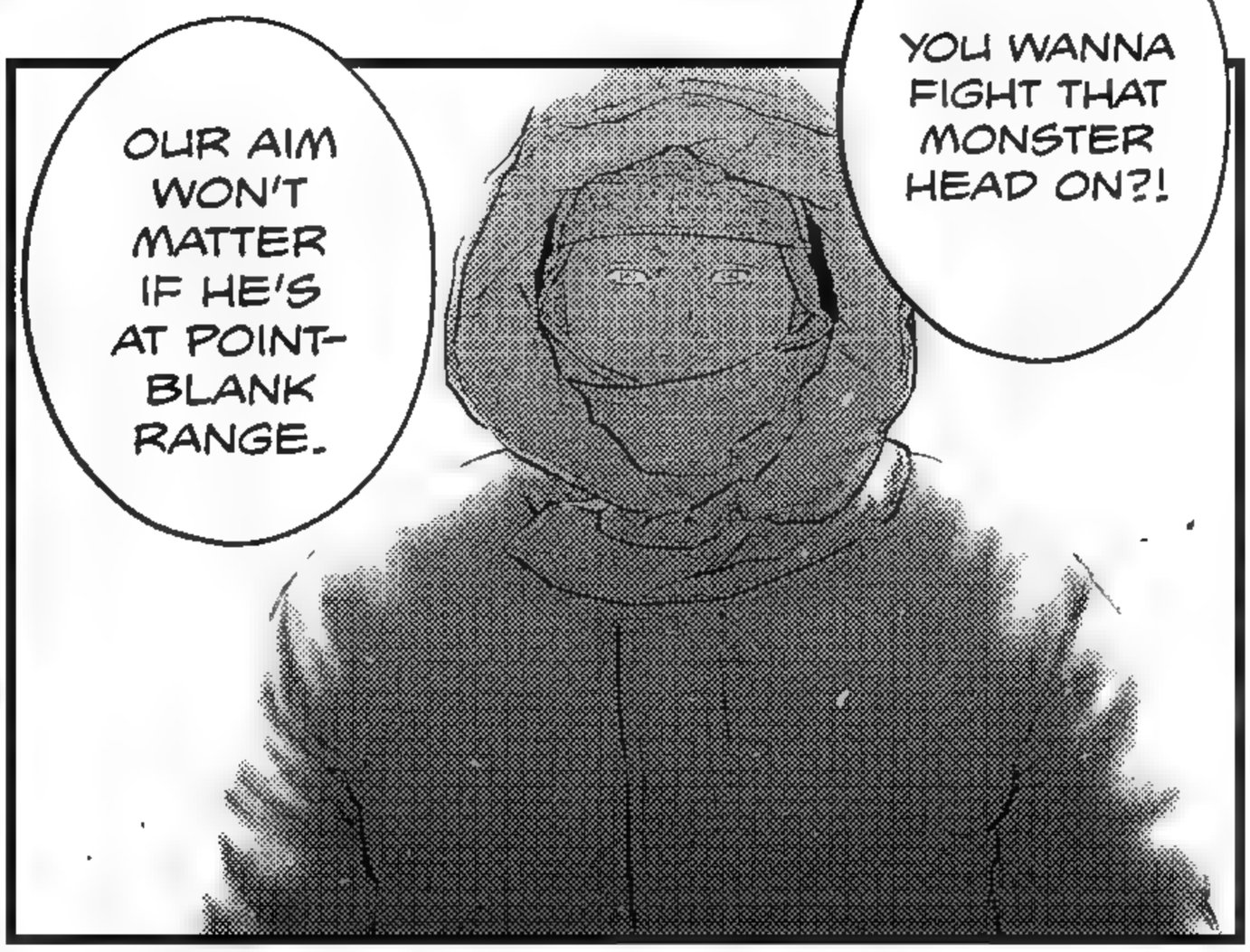
HOPEFULLY, LESS TIME THAN IT TAKES THE BEAR TO KILL US.
UH...

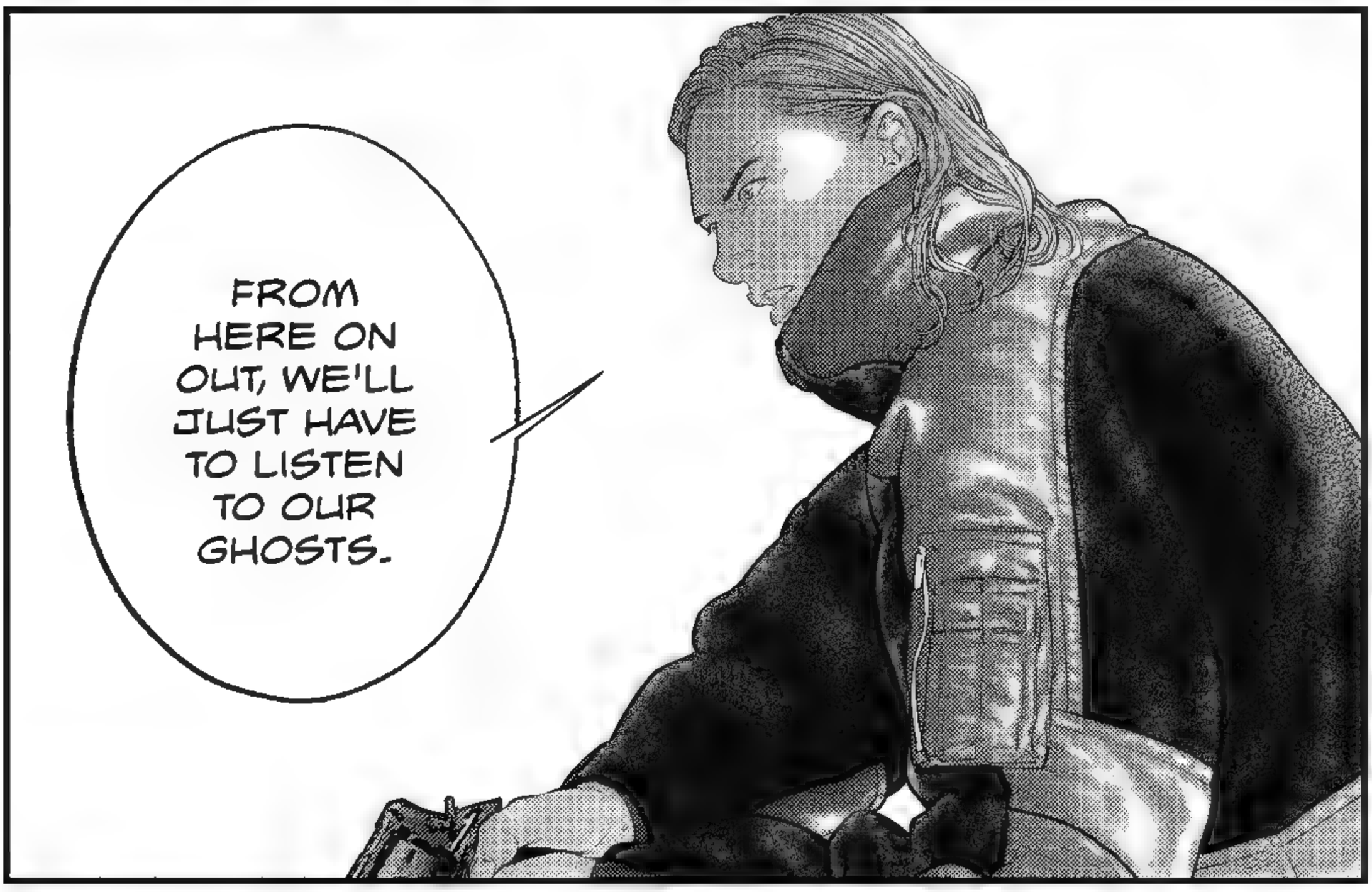

TING

BLAM
OR WE COULD JUST PUT AN END TO THIS RIGHT NOW.

WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL HE GETS CLOSER.
THAT'S THE JAMMING SIGNAL.
THE HELL?!
I CAN'T LINE UP MY SHOT!


SWITCH YOUR CYBER-BRAIN OFF.
HUH?


OUR AIM WON'T MATTER IF HE'S AT POINT-BLANK RANGE.
YOU WANNA FIGHT THAT MONSTER HEAD ON?!


FROM HERE ON OUT, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO LISTEN TO OUR GHOSTS.

?!
SKRP

...

?!

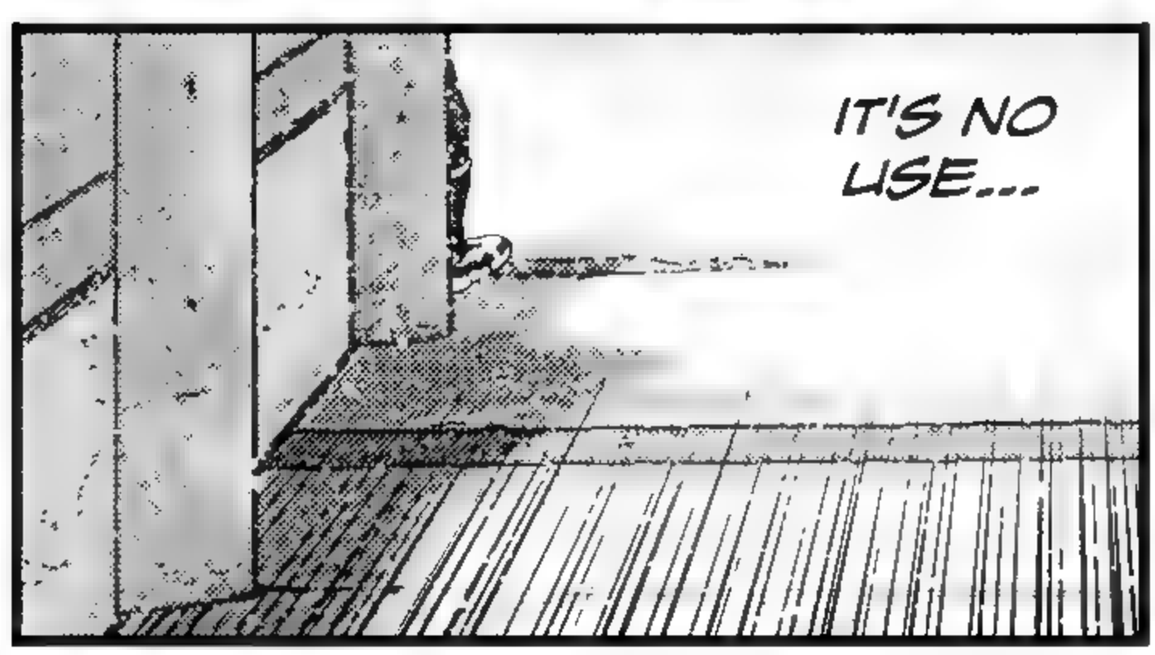
WHAT'S HE DOING?
HOLD UP.

SKRP

KRNCH
KRNCH

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?!
WH-WHOA!

DAMN.


IT'S NO USE...

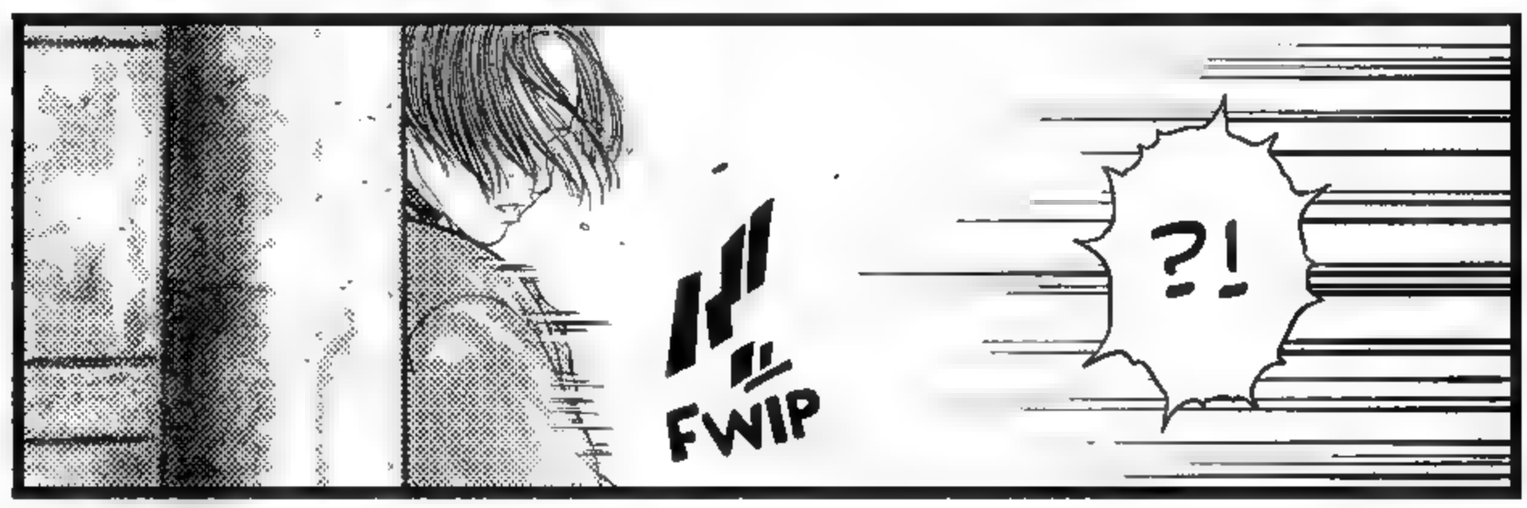
WE CAN'T HIT HIM IF THERE'S NOTHING FOR US TO HIT!

AZUMA AND I WILL STALL THE BEAR...
I'VE SEEN YOU SHOOT. I KNOW YOU CAN DO THIS.
LISTEN UP, TSUNAGI.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO WASN'T HIT BY WHAT-EVER HE DID TO US.
...BUT YOU HAVE TO PUT HIM DOWN.

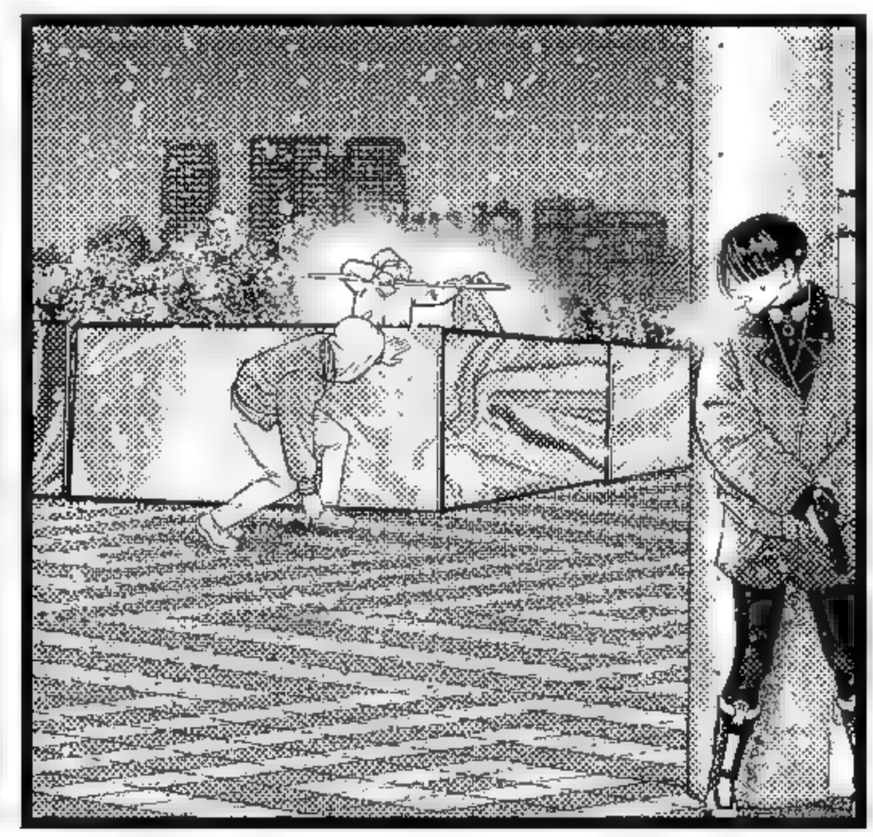
I CAN'T...!

MM...
UNGH...

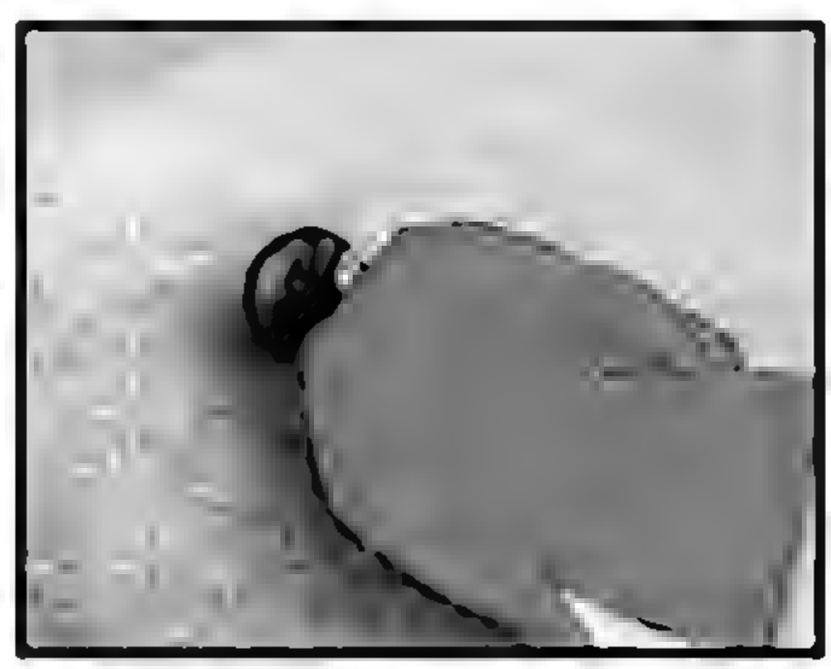
BEARY-BEAR...


FWIP
?!

POOF



EXIT



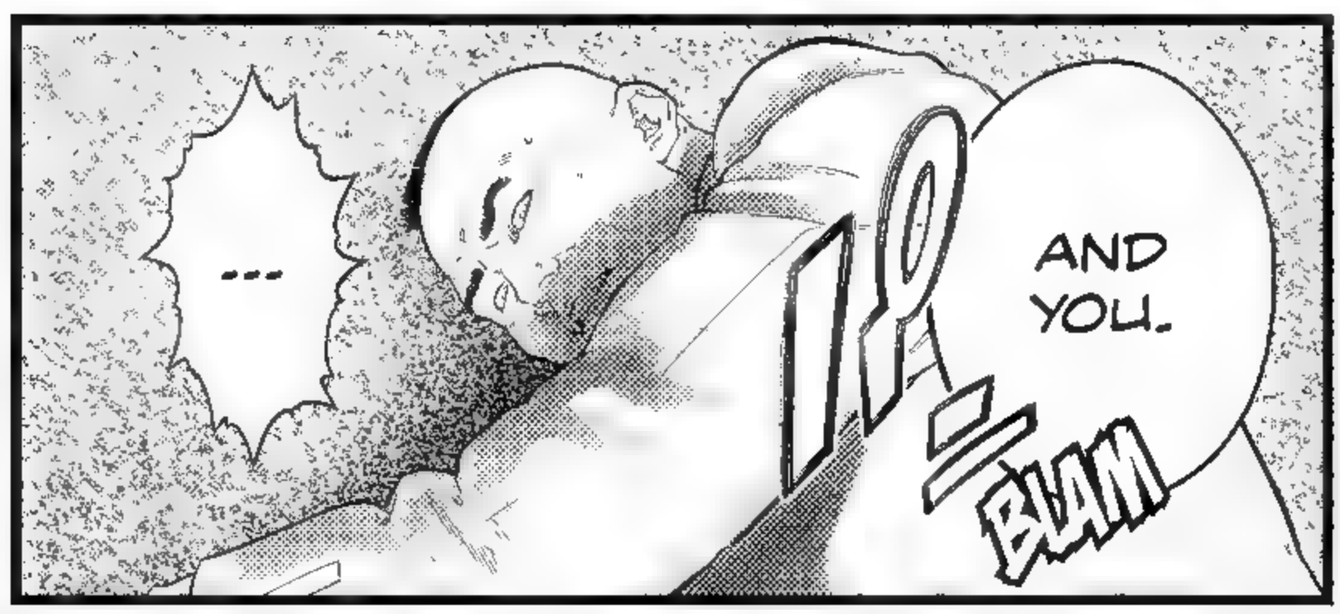
"FAILED EXPERI-MENTS"?

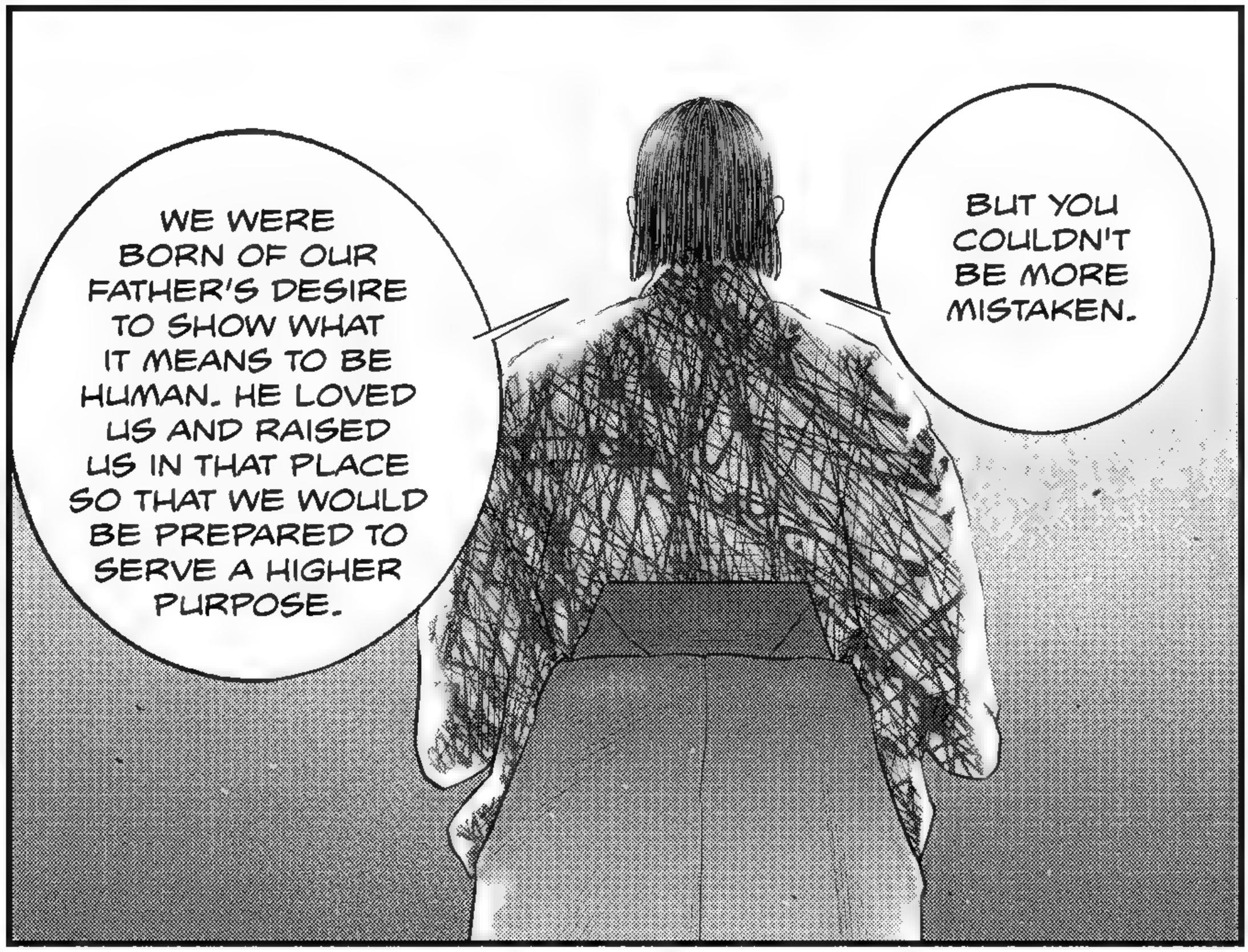
BZZT

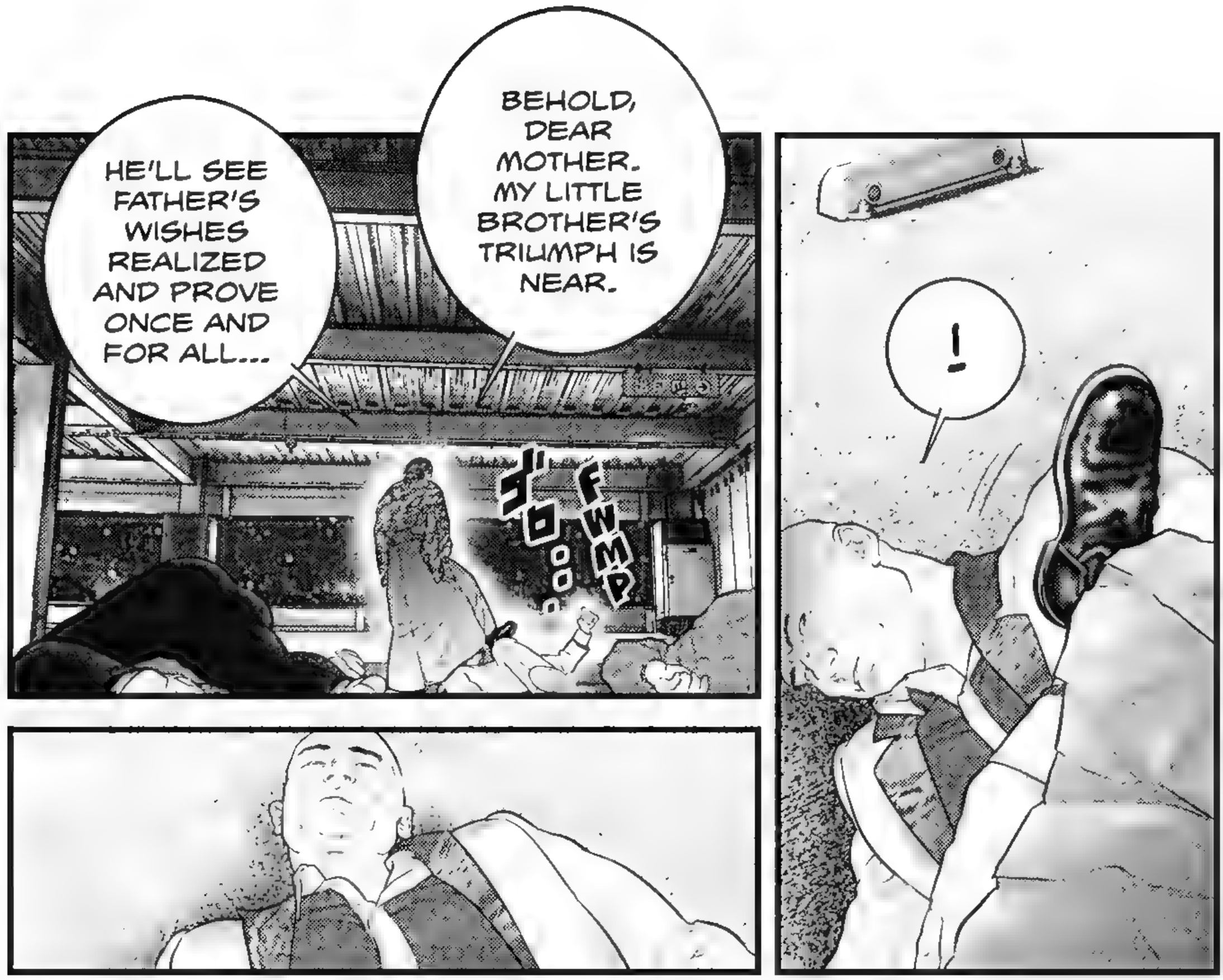
I SUPPOSE THAT'S ALL WE LOOK LIKE, TO THOSE WHO HAVE TRADED IN THEIR HUMANITY FOR CRUDE, MECHANICAL BODIES.
BLAM
...!
LIKE YOU.

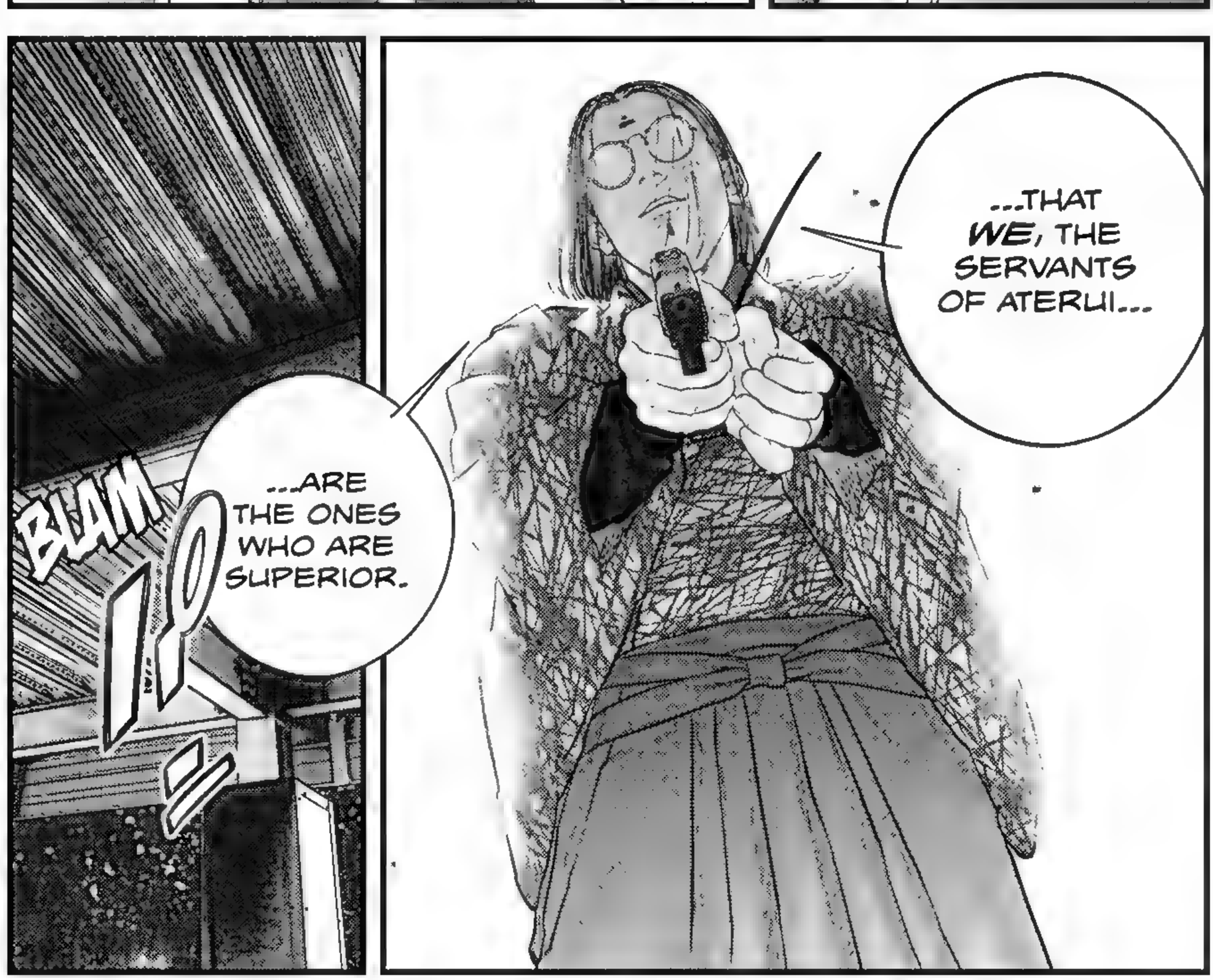
AND YOU.
BLAM

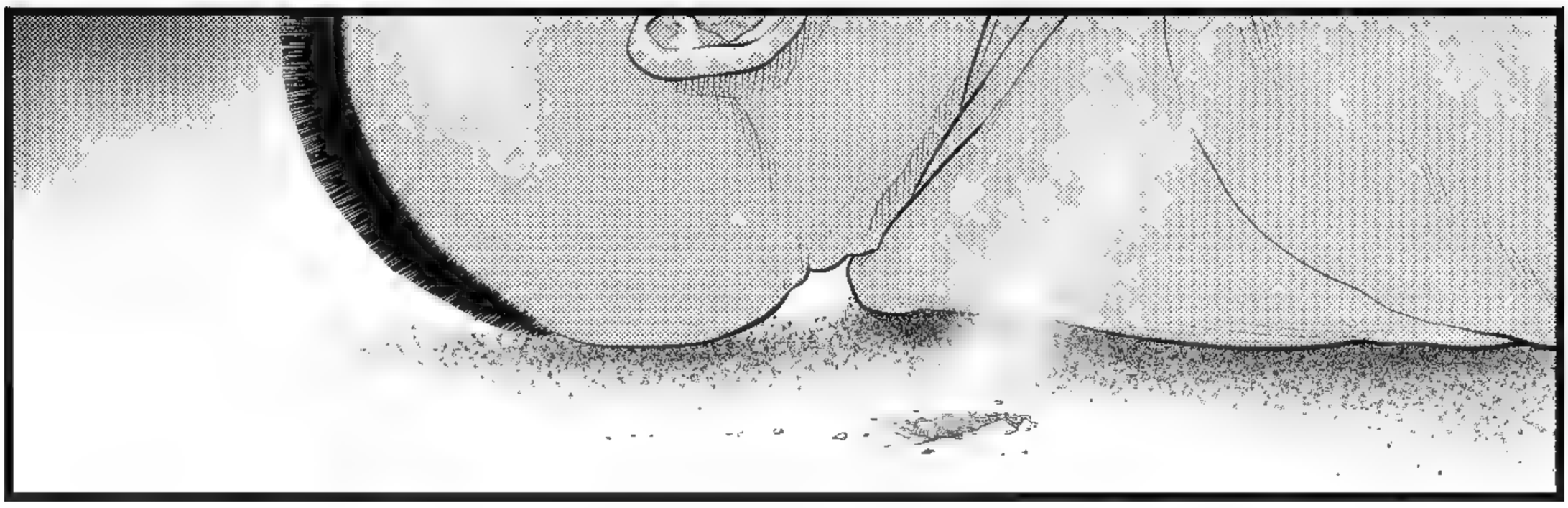
BLAM
AND YOU.


...
AND YOU.
BLAM

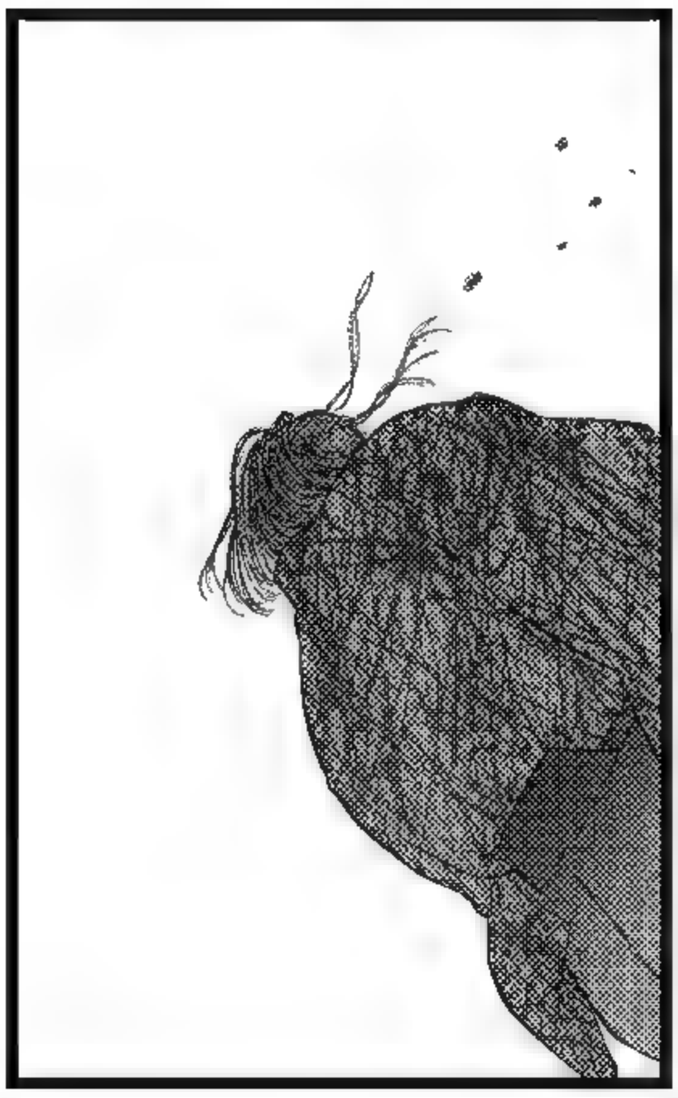

WE WERE BORN OF OUR FATHER'S DESIRE TO SHOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN. HE LOVED US AND RAISED US IN THAT PLACE SO THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SERVE A HIGHER PURPOSE.
BUT YOU COULDN'T BE MORE MISTAKEN.

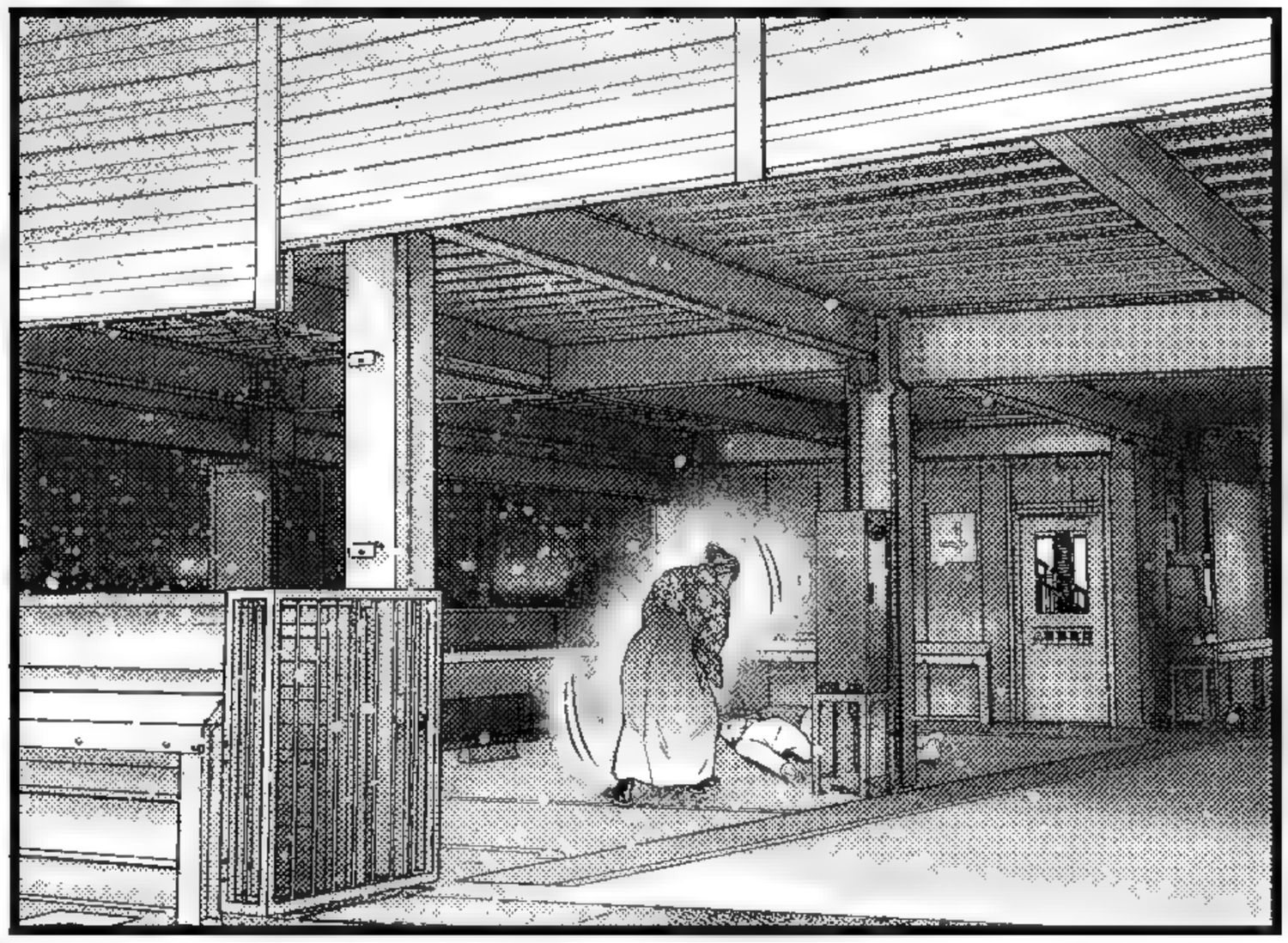

HE'LL SEE FATHER'S WISHES REALIZED AND PROVE ONCE AND FOR ALL...
BEHOLD, DEAR MOTHER. MY LITTLE BROTHER'S TRIUMPH IS NEAR.
SOUND
!


BLAM
...ARE THE ONES WHO ARE SUPERIOR.
...THAT WE, THE SERVANTS OF ATERUI...

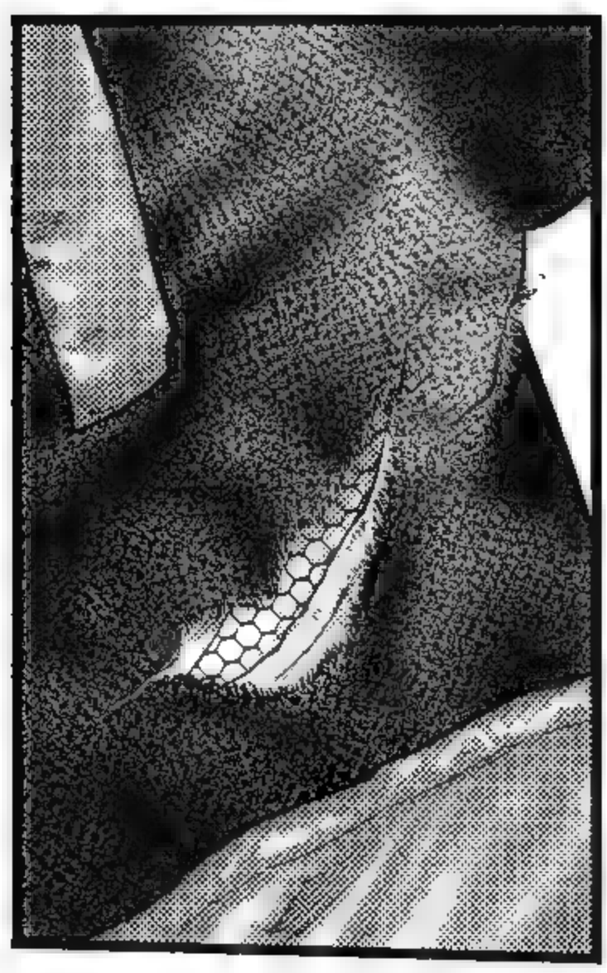


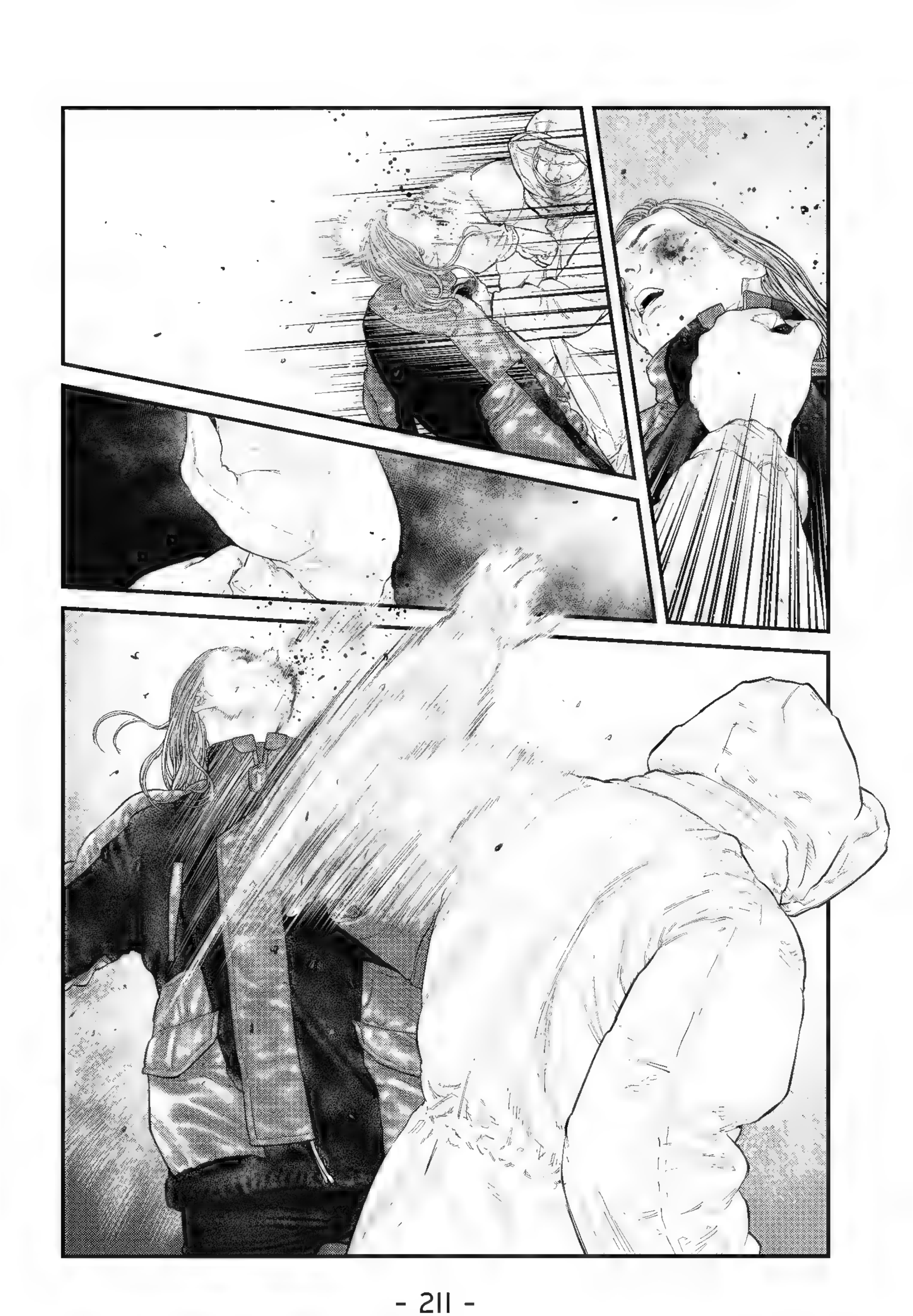
KOFF!!!





WHUMP
!!
JOLT

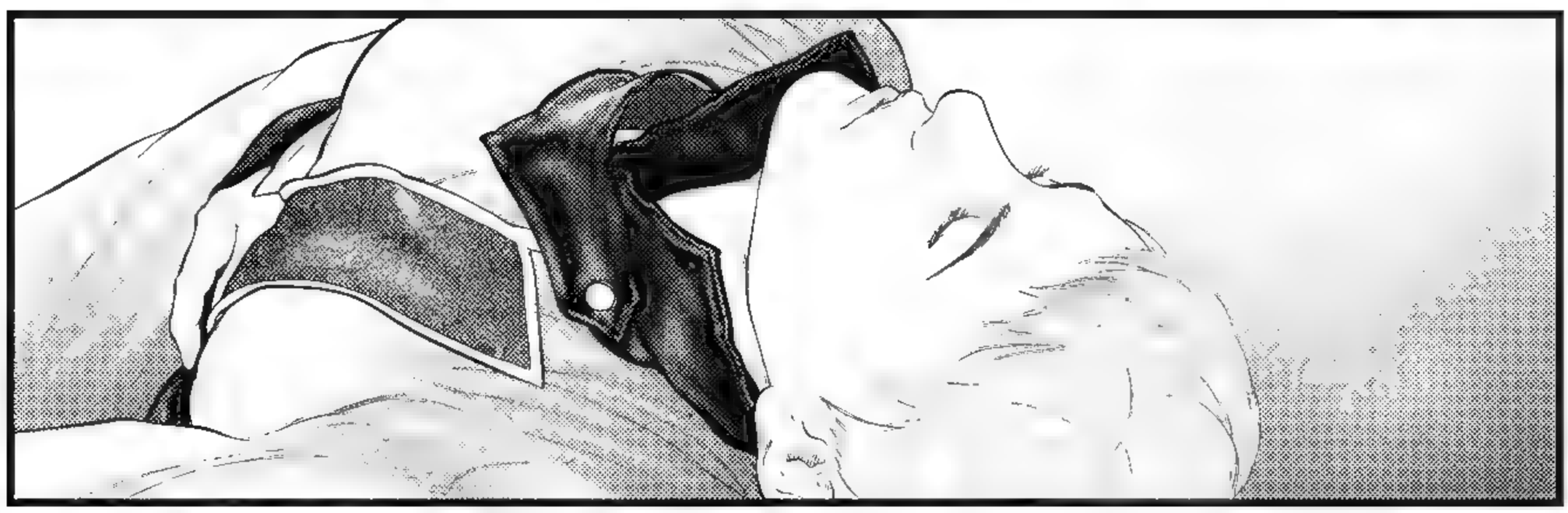




WHUD

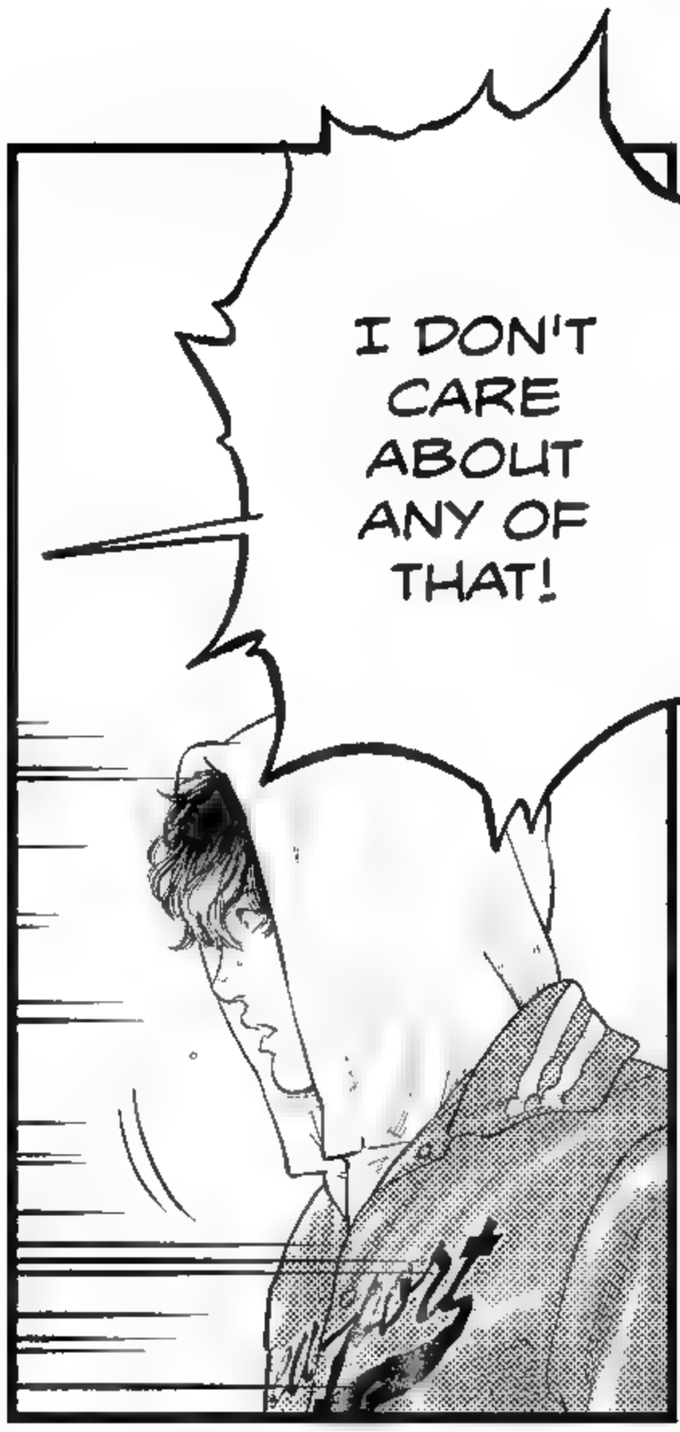
SKRRRP
SKRRRP

NO! DON'T DO THIS!



I SAID MOVE!

I WON'T!
I'M ASKING NICELY. MOVE.


I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF THAT!

SHE TRIED TO HAVE *ME* KILLED, TOO. IF I DON'T STOP HER—
SHE KILLED MY FATHER AND STOLE HIS RESEARCH.
NONE OF YOU KNOW WHAT THAT WOMAN HAS DONE.

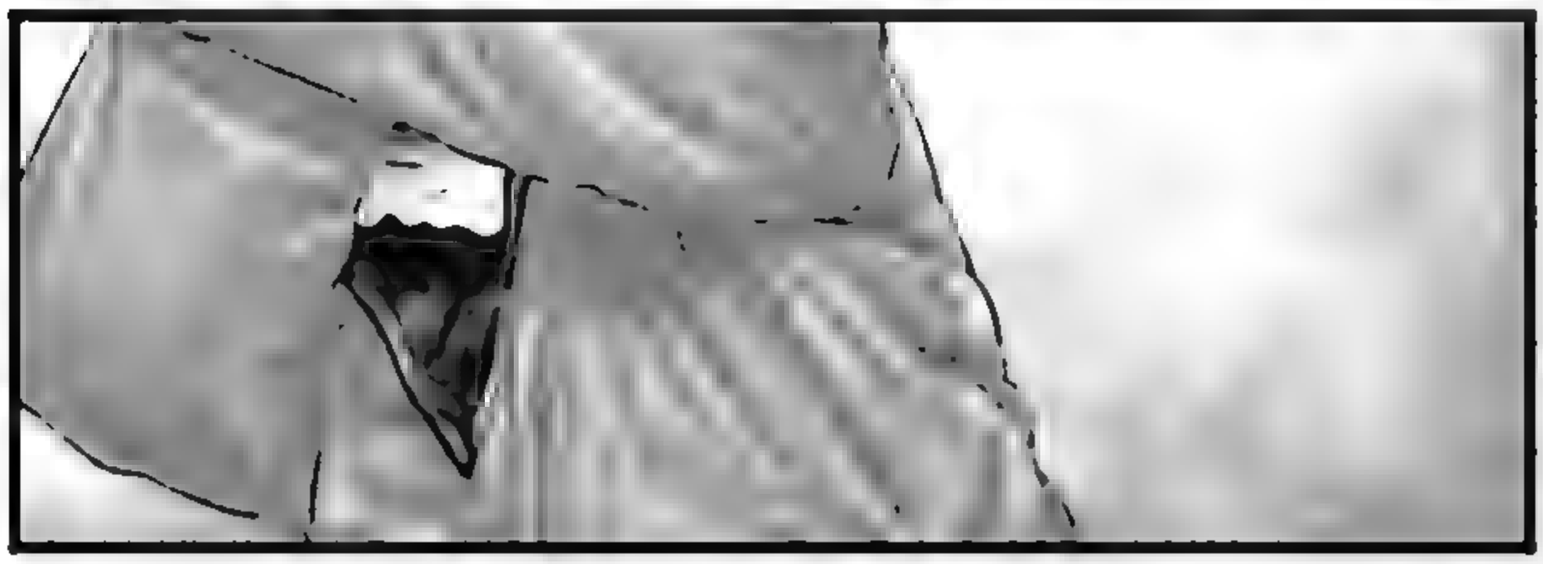
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE SOME KIND OF HERO FIGHTING AGAINST EVIL?! FROM WHERE I'M STANDING, *YOU'RE* THE EVIL ONE!

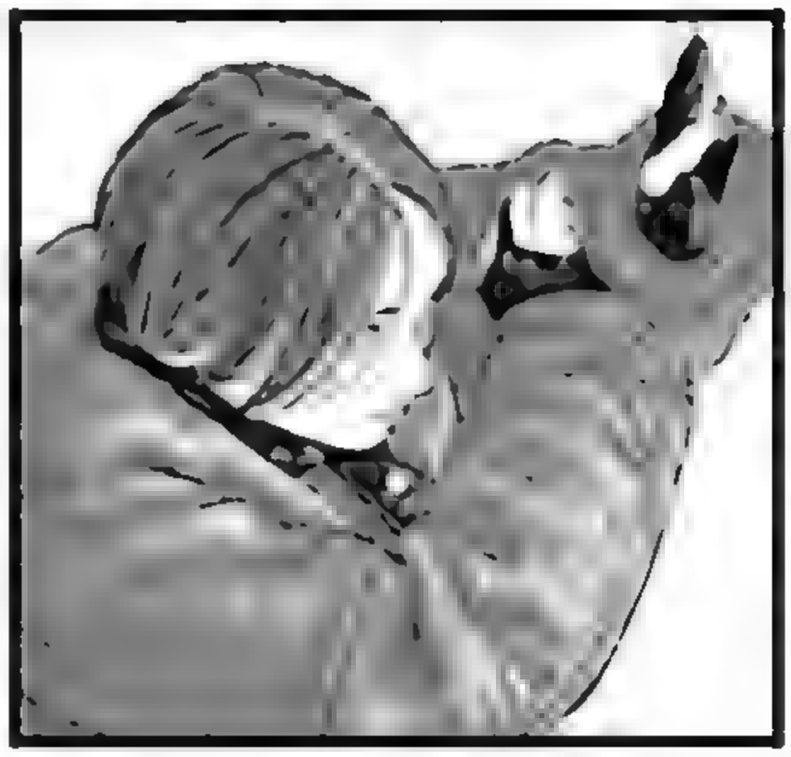
FINE...
I GAVE YOU A CHANCE...

WHA—

EEEK!
FWIP

BAM
BAM

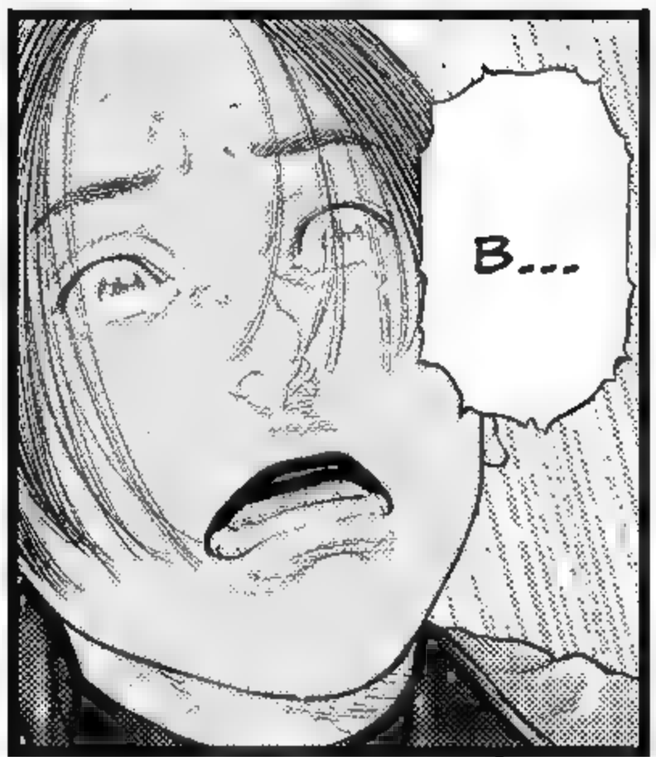


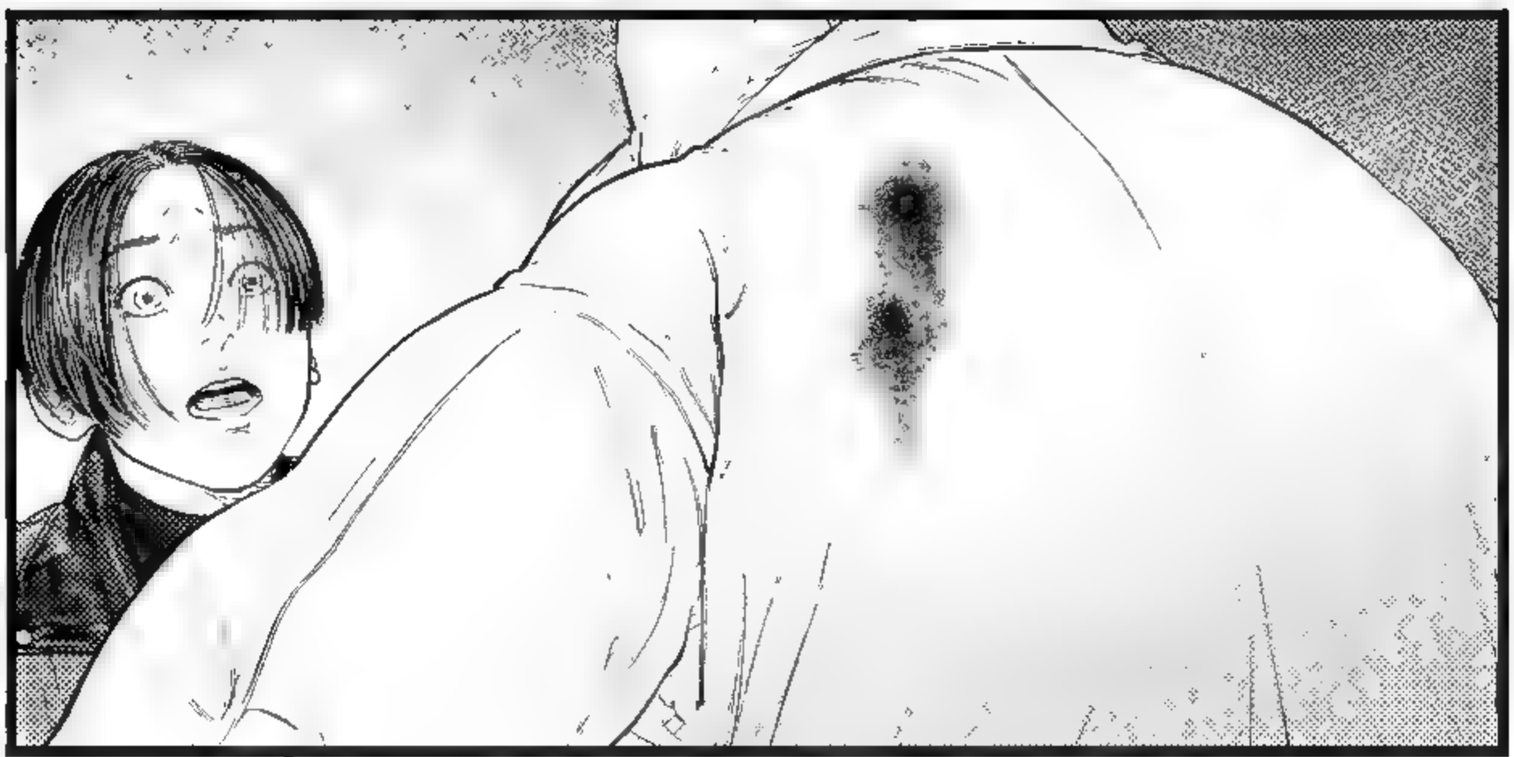


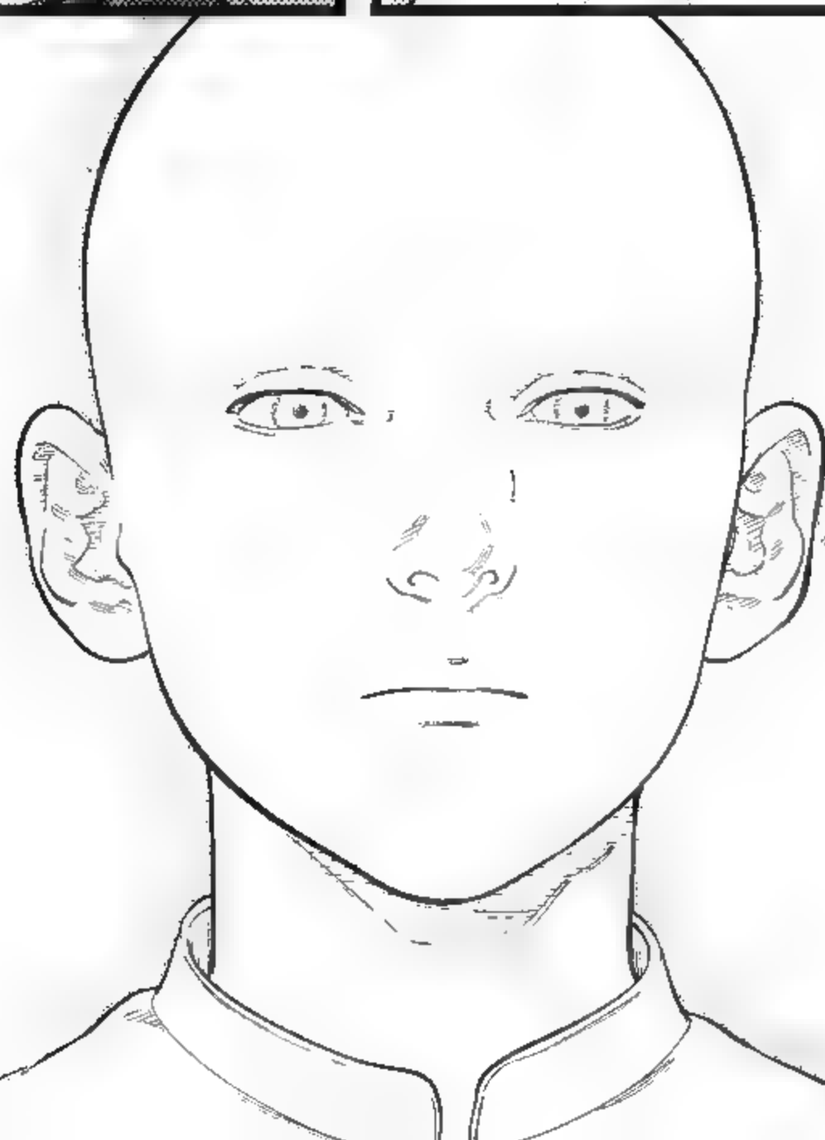
New York

PROTECT. TSUNAGI.

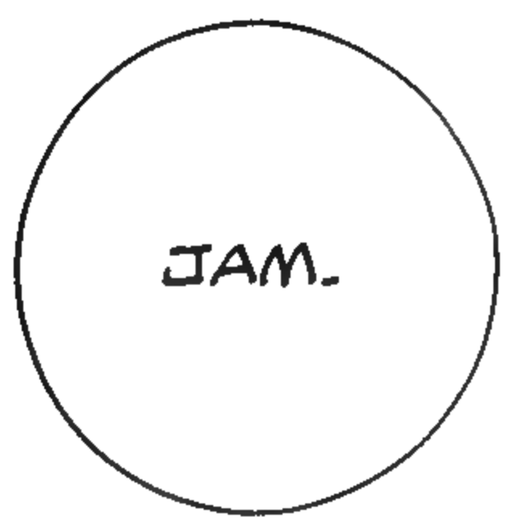
TSUNAGI.





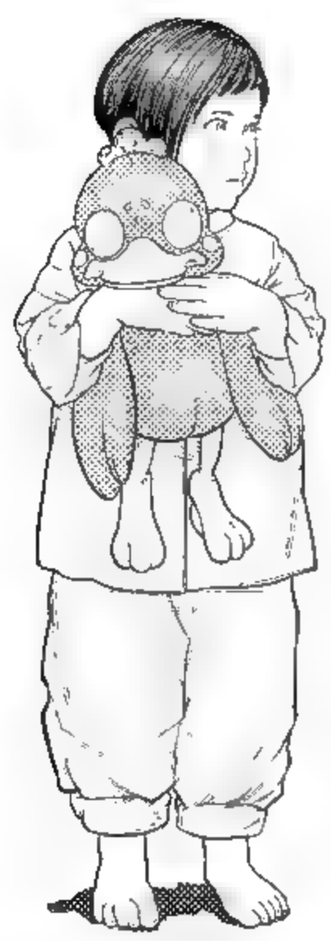


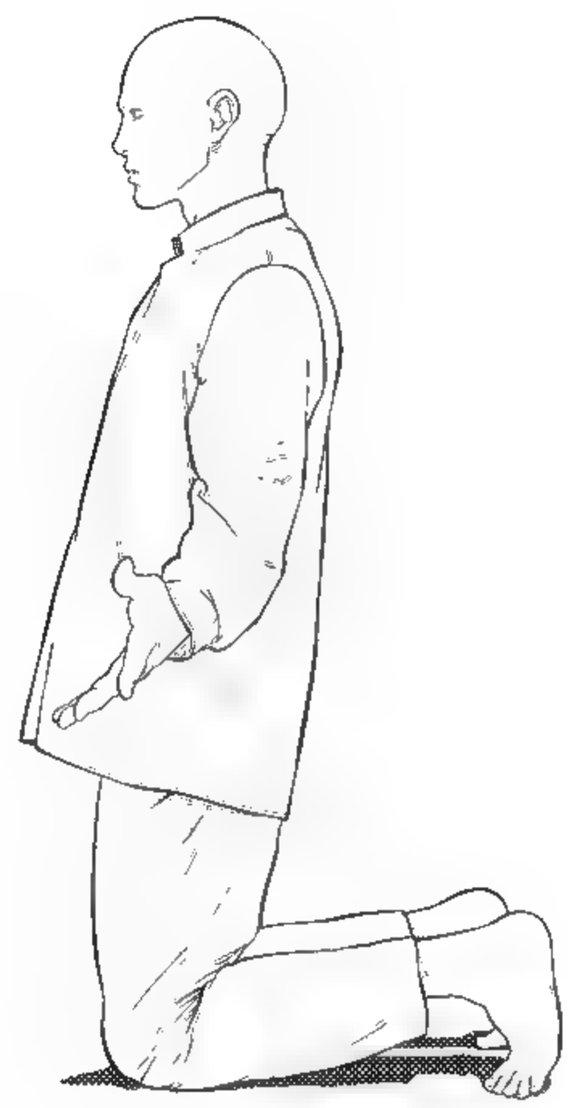
BEARY-BEAR...

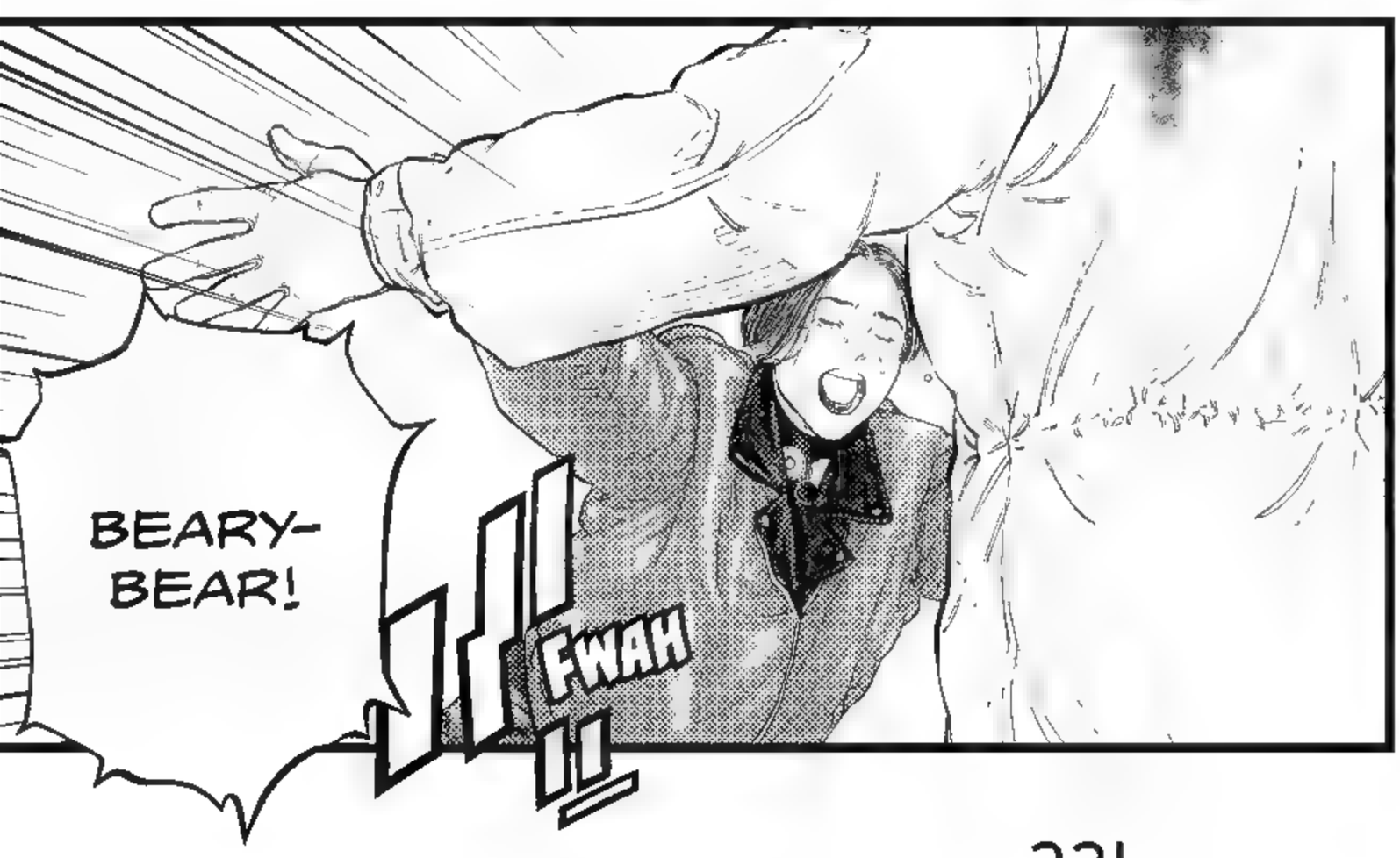

JAM.

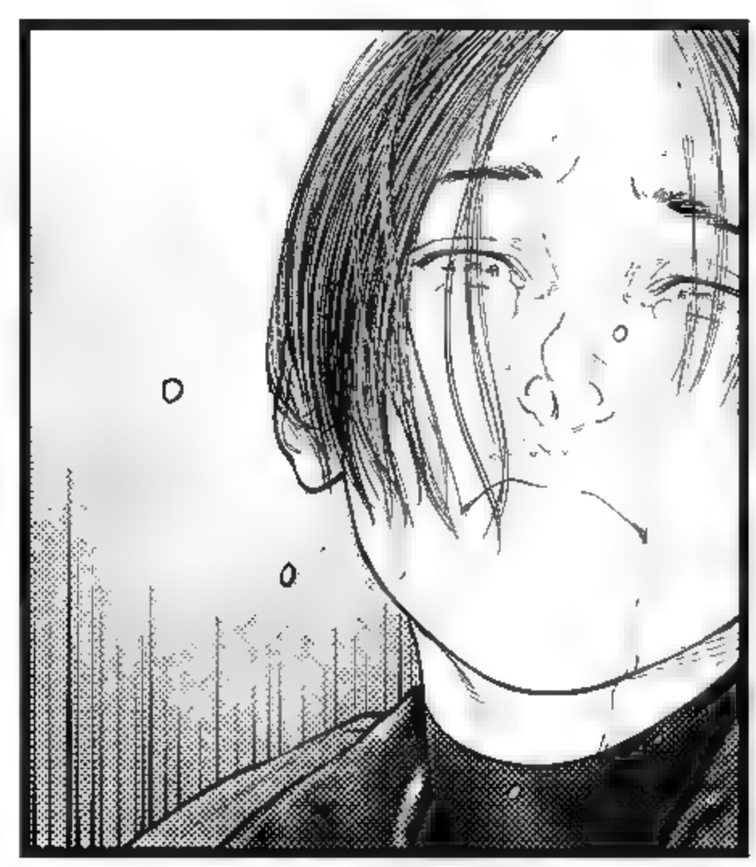
LET'S.
EAT.

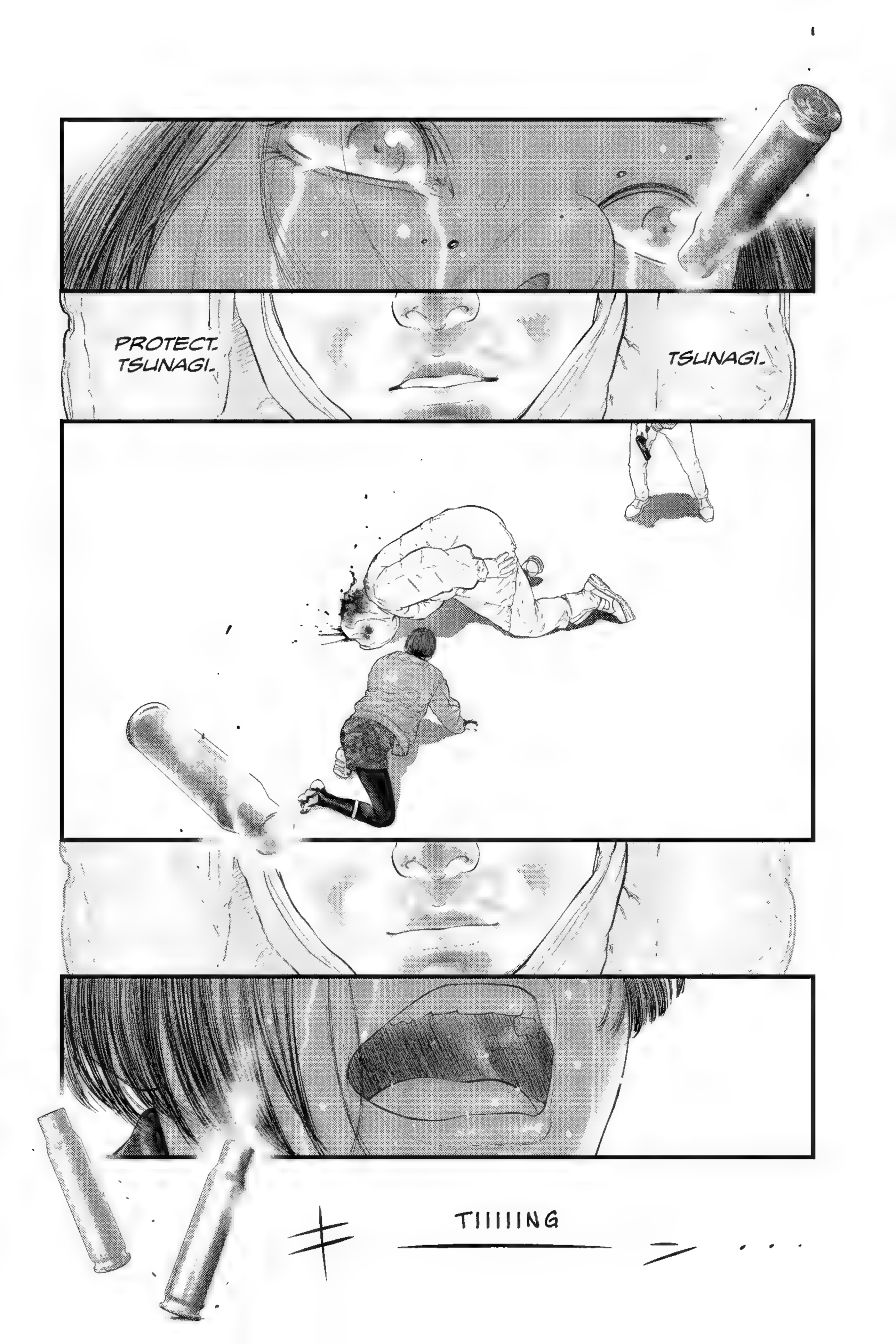
COME.

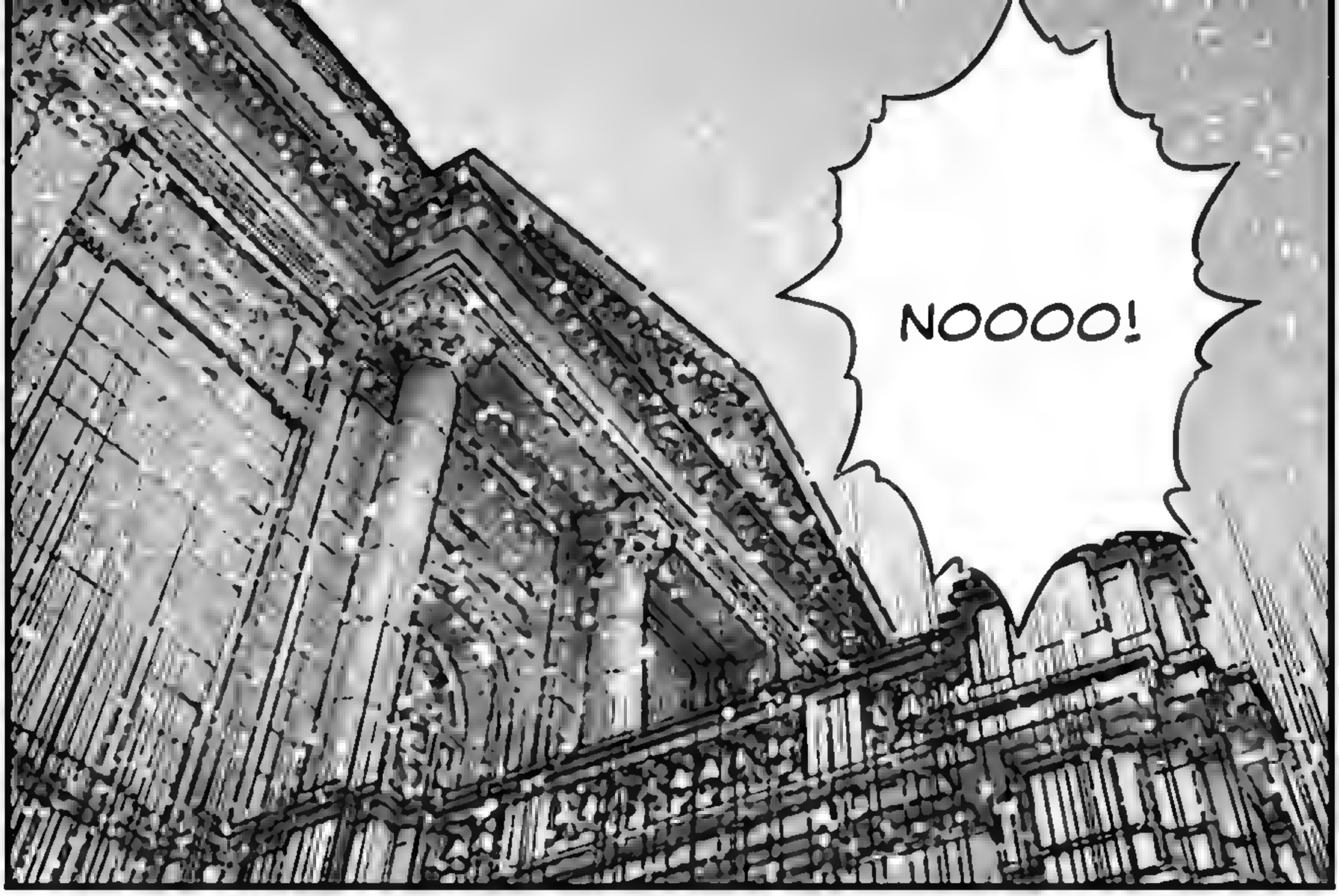





BEARY-
BEAR!
FWAH




PROTECT. TSUNAGI.
TSUNAGI.
TIIIIING


NOOOO!

KACHAK

THE GHOST IN THE SHELL

攻殻機動隊

THE HUMAN ALGORITHM

25

THE GRIM REAPER

N...
NO...

WH...

WHY...?

NGH...

FWIP

HFF...
HFF...

AGH!
KLAK

SHNK
?!

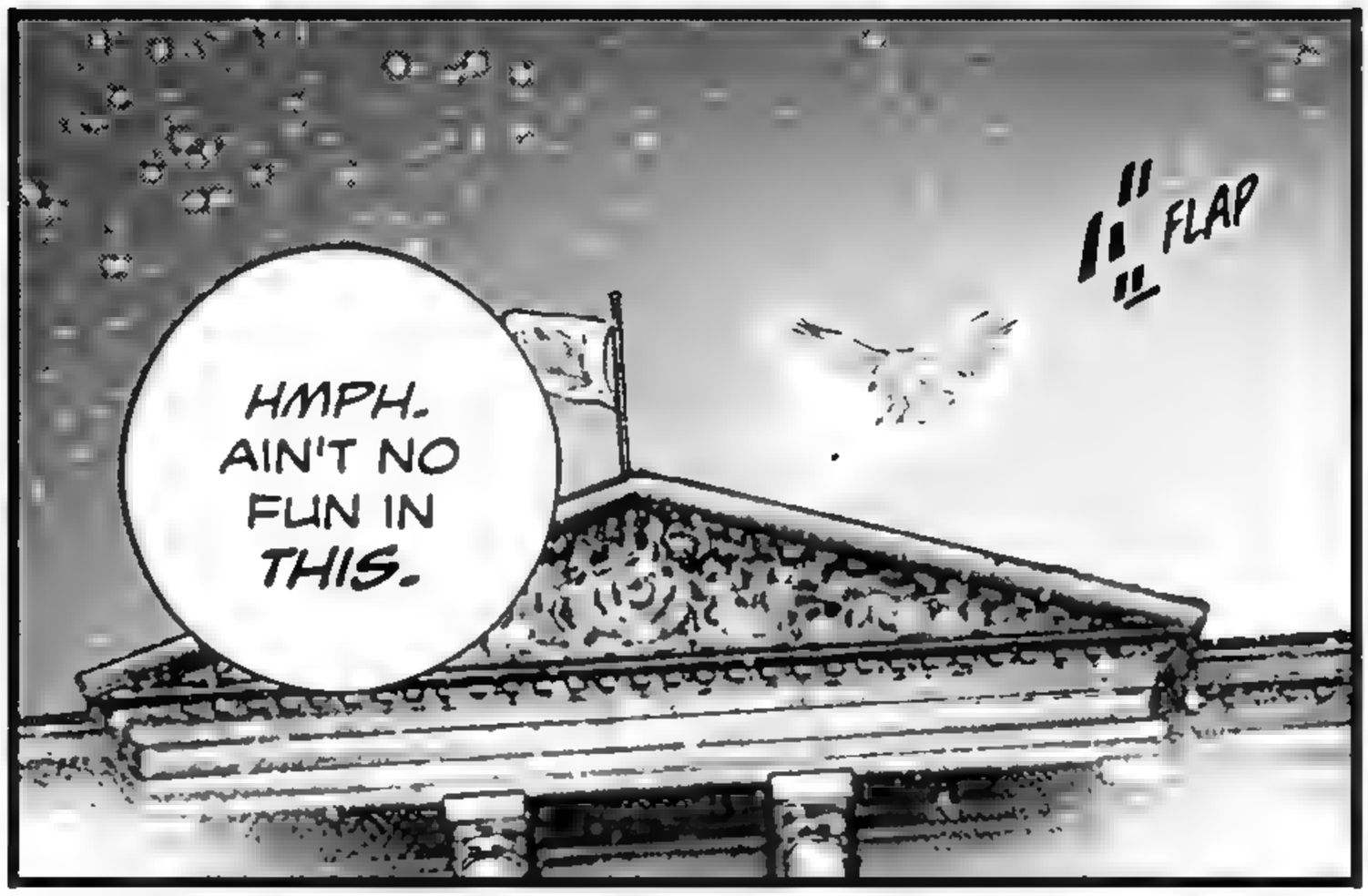
COUNT YOURSELF LUCKY.

YOU'VE BEEN A REAL PAIN IN THE ASS, KID.
KRNCH

I WAS AIMING FOR YOUR HEAD.

THERE'S TWO THINGS THAT REALLY GRIND MY GEARS. HAVIN' TO CLEAN UP AFTER ROOKIE COPS...

...AND MISSIN' OUT ON A GOOD PARTY.



MURMUR
MURMUR

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE FINALLY COMIN' ROUND.
MURMUR
MURMUR

WHAT IN THE WORLD...?
WH-WHAT HAPPENED?
HUH...?
MURMUR
MURMUR

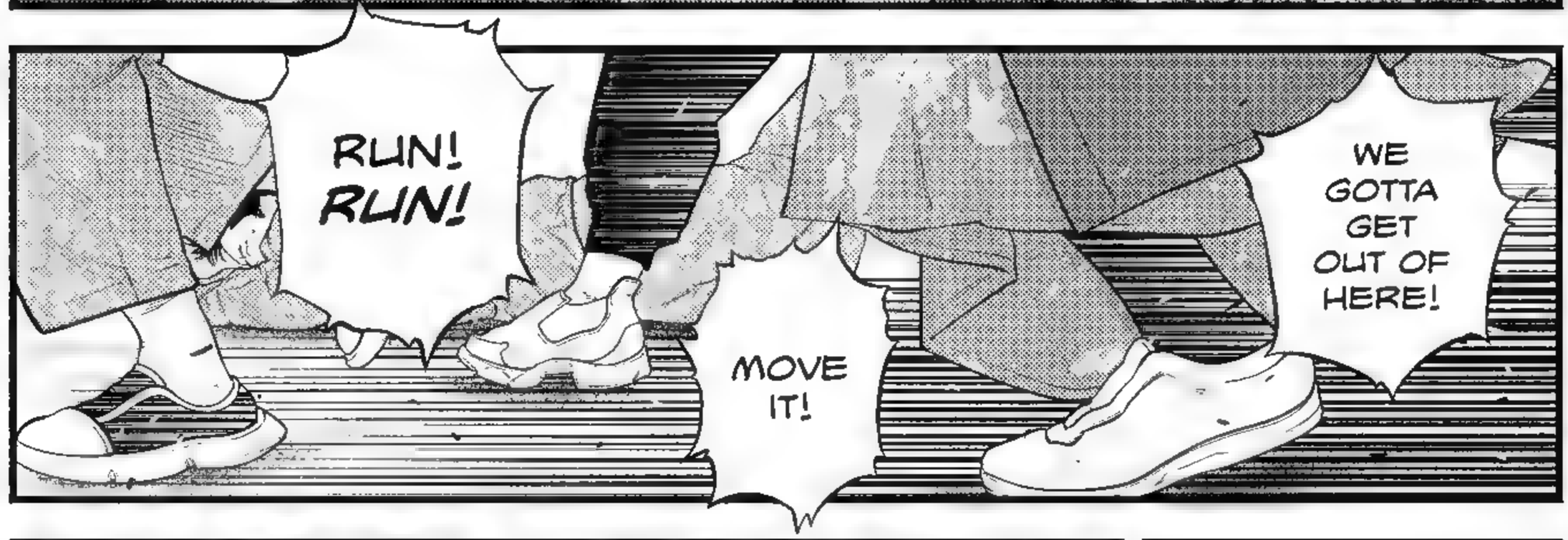
MURMUR
OH, GOD! ANOTHER ATTACK?!
MURMUR

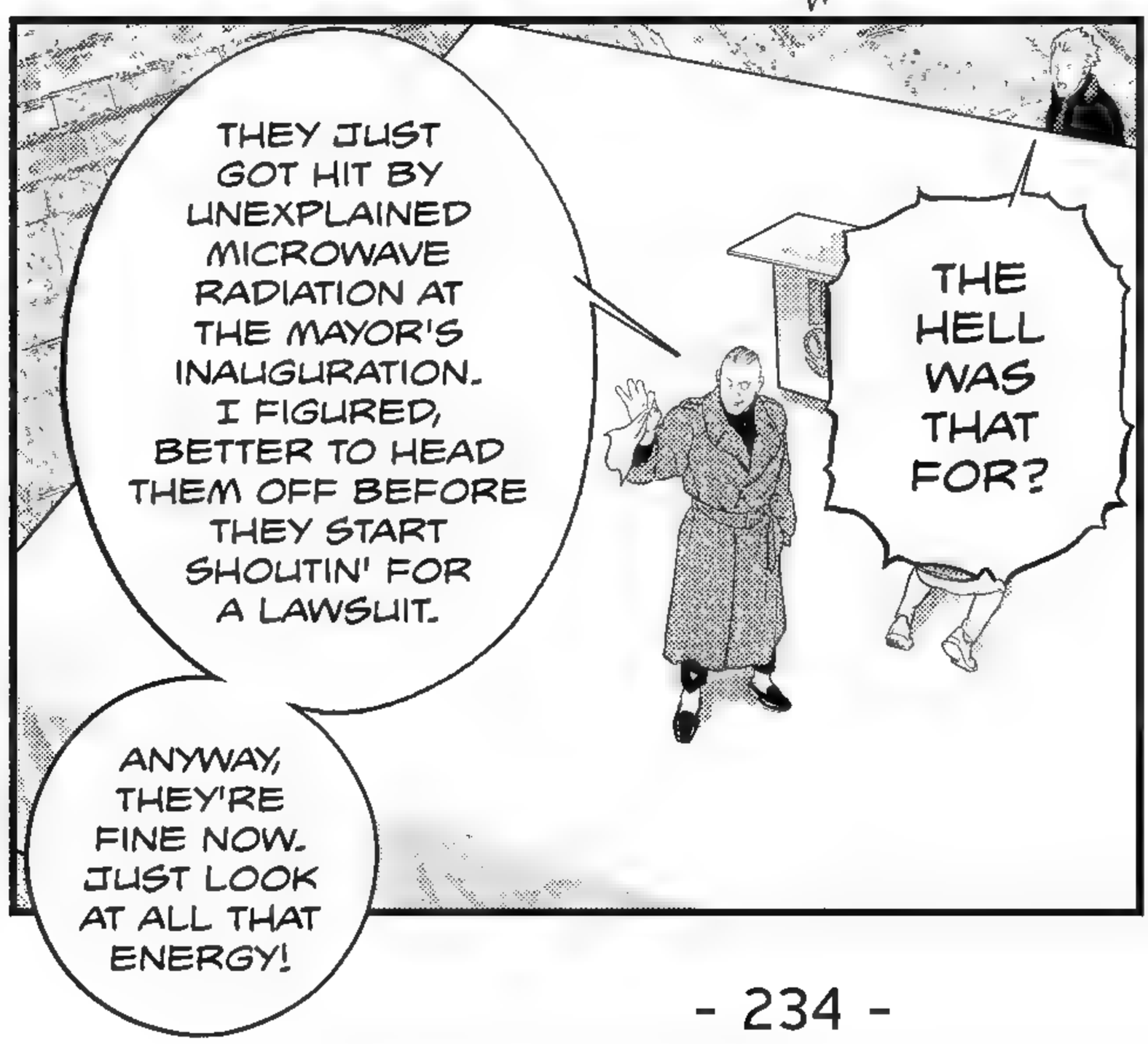
MAYOR MIKOMOTO IS DOWN!
...!

PLEASE EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY!

LISTEN UP, FOLKS! WE'VE FOUND AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE IN THE AREA!

AAAA
D-DID HE SAY EXPLOSIVE DEVICE?!
THEY'RE TRYING TO BLOW THE PLACE UP!
AAH!
NIIHAMA CENTRAL SQUARE


RUN! RUN!
MOVE IT!
WE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE!


THEY JUST GOT HIT BY UNEXPLAINED MICROWAVE RADIATION AT THE MAYOR'S INAUGURATION. I FIGURED, BETTER TO HEAD THEM OFF BEFORE THEY START SHOUTIN' FOR A LAWSUIT.
ANYWAY, THEY'RE FINE NOW. JUST LOOK AT ALL THAT ENERGY!
THE HELL WAS THAT FOR?

DON'T FORGET YOUR BAGS!
WAVE WAVE

...I HAVEN'T HAD MUCH TIME TO TUNE THESE PUPPIES UP WITH ALL THE TRAVEL LATELY.

...THEN AGAIN...

SWISH

SWISH

COME TO THINK OF IT, HOW'D A SOUPED-OUT OL' CYBORG LIKE ME REBOOT BEFORE ALL OF THEM? GUESS THAT'S WHAT THEY GET FOR BUYING THE GENERIC CRAP.

KRKK

?!

THE FANCIEST PROSTHETIC IN THE WORLD ISN'T WORTH A DAMN IF YOU DON'T TAKE CARE OF IT.

HANG TIGHT. I'LL SEND OVER THE MAINTENANCE CREW.

...

HA! CYBORG LIFE DOES HAVE ITS DRAWBACKS.

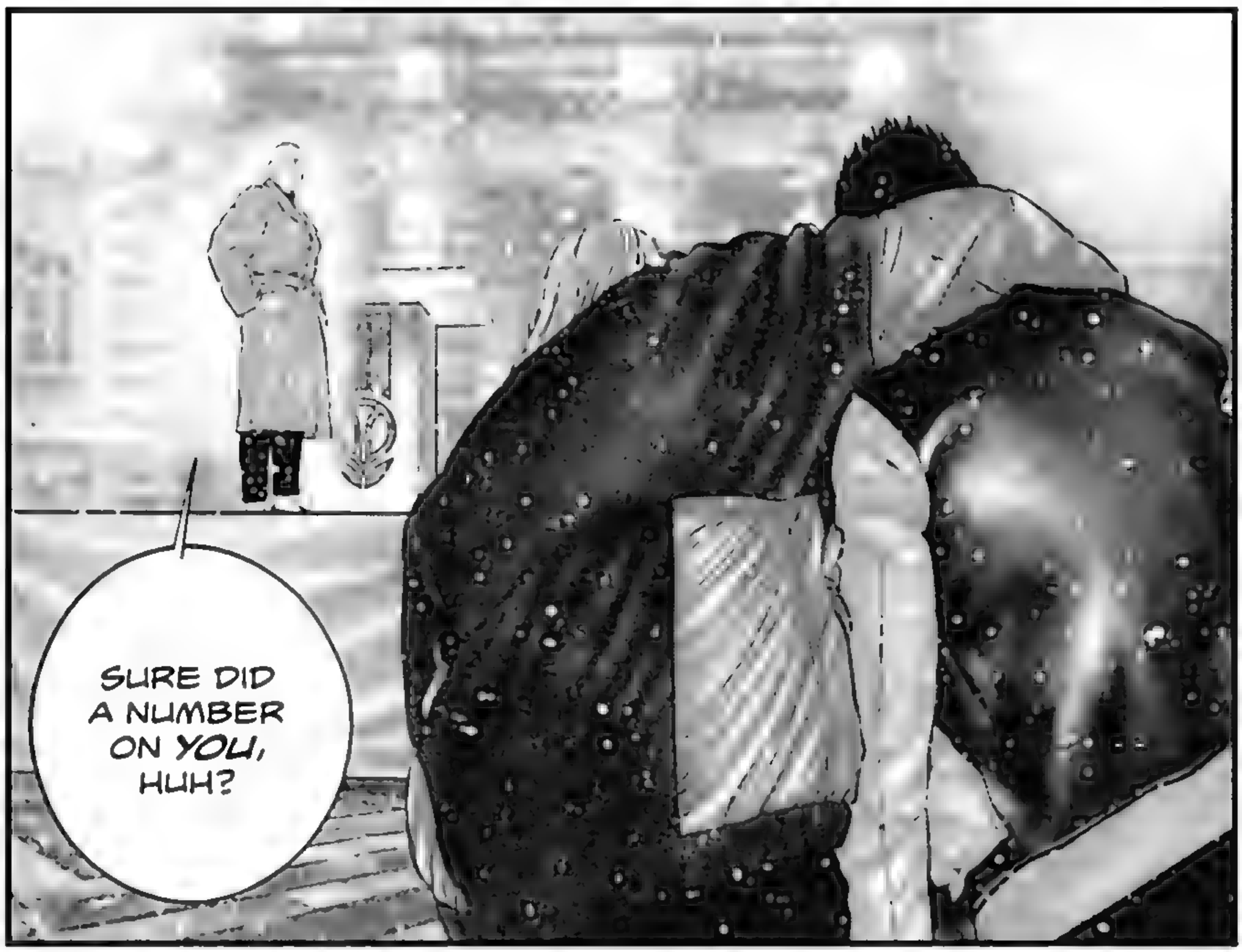
GET OVER HERE AND LEND ME A HAND.

QUIT GLOATING.

GENERIC CRAP IS ALL I'VE GOT RIGHT NOW.

I HEARD THAT.

YOU GOTTA BE A CRAZY BASTARD TO STICK WITH A NATURAL BODY IN THIS LINE OF WORK.
STILL BEATS HAVIN' TO LOOK DEATH IN THE FACE EVERY TIME THERE'S SOME ACTION.


SURE DID A NUMBER ON *YOU*, HUH?

LIKE I SAID, YOU'RE ALWAYS LOOKIN' DEATH IN THE FACE.
MY WIFE AND DAUGHTER'S FACES KEPT FLASHING THROUGH MY MIND.

YOU CALL UP THE CHIEF AND FILL HIM IN.

I'LL GET SHOH INTO HOLDING.

AZUMA, YOU'RE WITH ME.

'CAUSE YOU'RE NOT GONNA DO ANY GOOD STANDIN' AROUND HERE.

THMP

HUH? WHY?!

TSUNAGI...

THIS WHOLE TIME...
...HE'S BEEN LOOKING OUT FOR ME.
ALWAYS...
HE'S ALWAYS LOOKED OUT FOR ME, EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE.

RIGHT UP...
...UNTIL THE END.

SOUNDS LIKE HE WAS A GOOD OLDER BROTHER.

...YEAH. HE WAS.

WHAT WAS HIS NAME?

YUKIO.

I SEE.

WAS HE AS TOUGH AS I SAID?

HEH.

YEAH. DIDN'T GIVE ME A SINGLE OPENING.

...

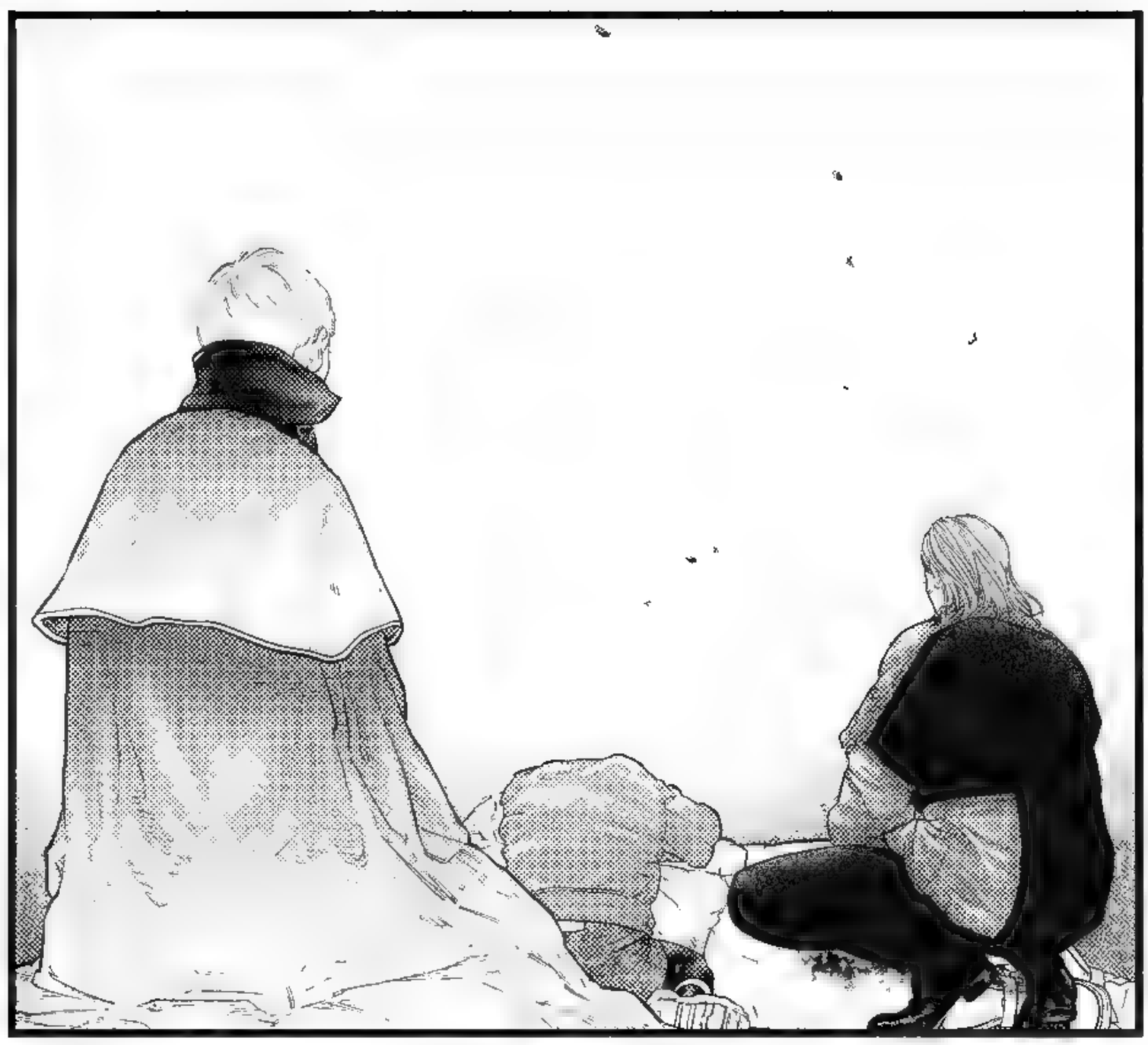
THE MOMENT WE TOOK THE SHOT WAS THE ONE MOMENT HE LET HIS GUARD DOWN...

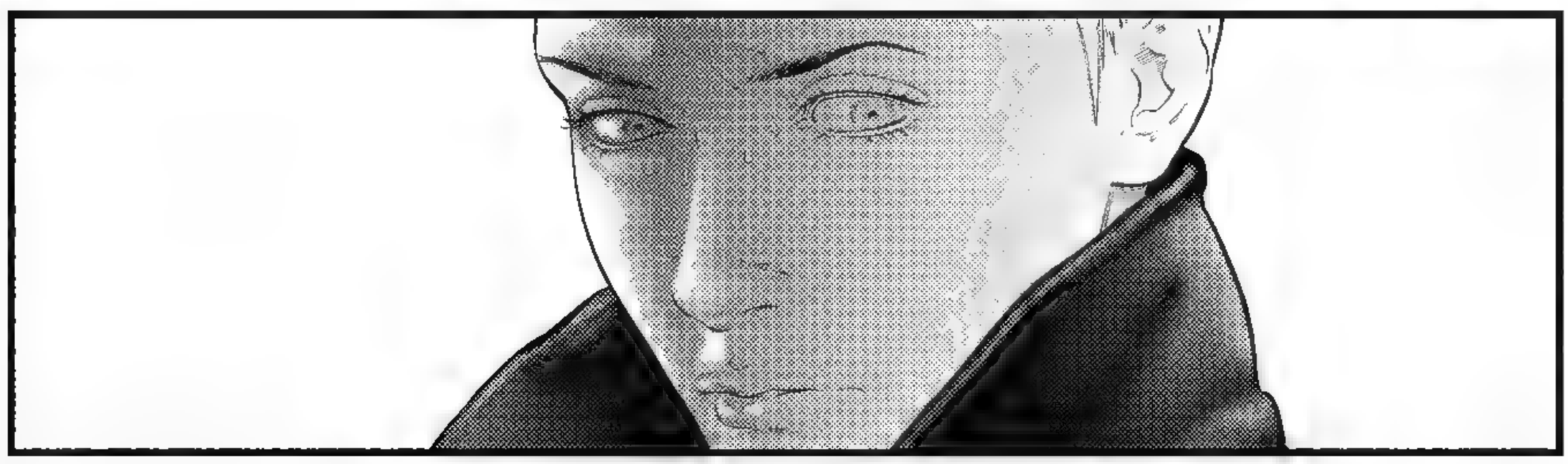
...AND ALL THOSE MEMORIES YOU'D BLOCKED OUT CAME FLOODING BACK TO YOU.

CALL IT DESTINY...

...OR BELIEF, OR KARMA.

ALL I KNOW IS THAT WHAT YOU AND YUKIO SHARED WENT DEEPER THAN ANY OF THAT.



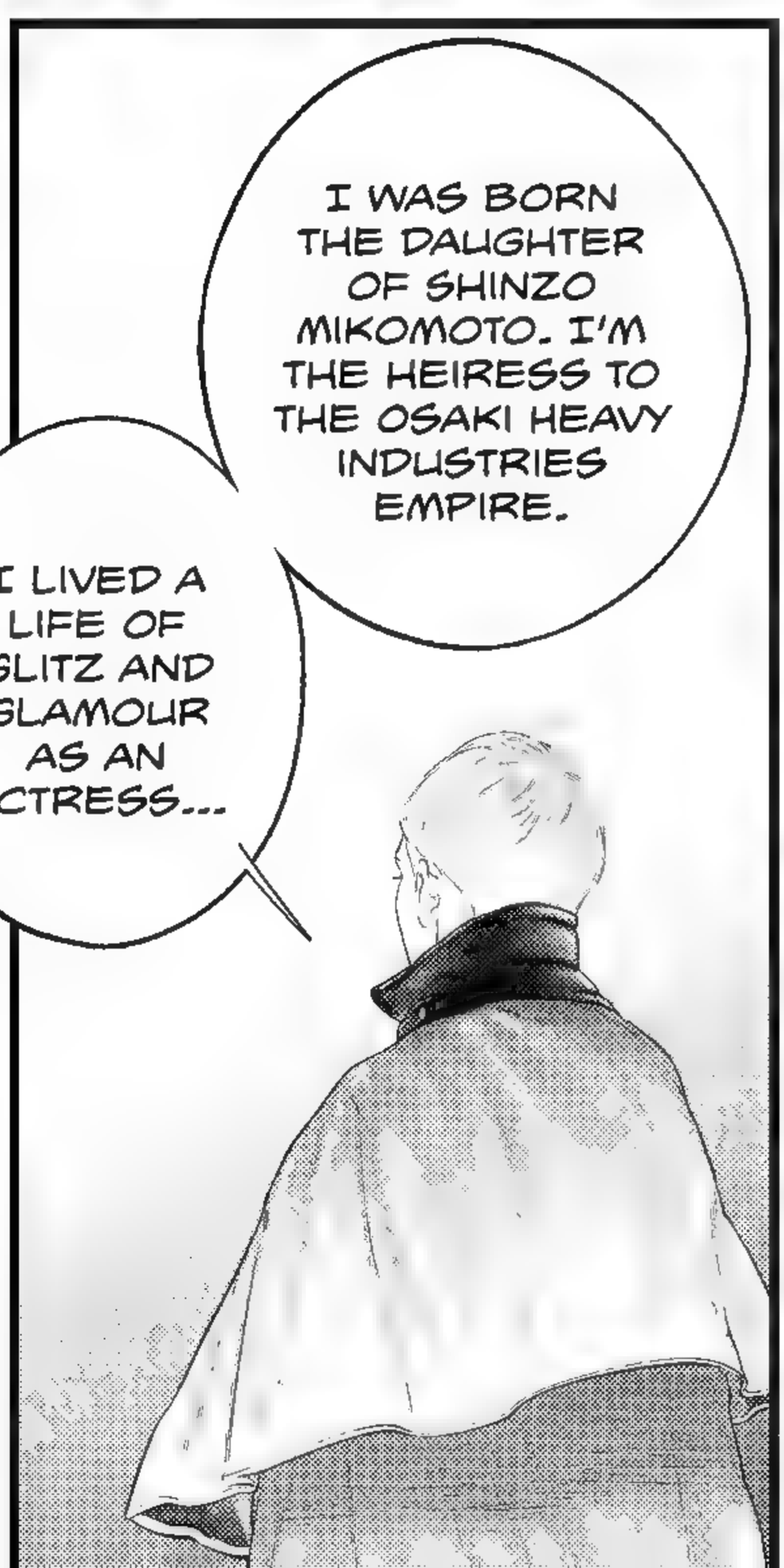


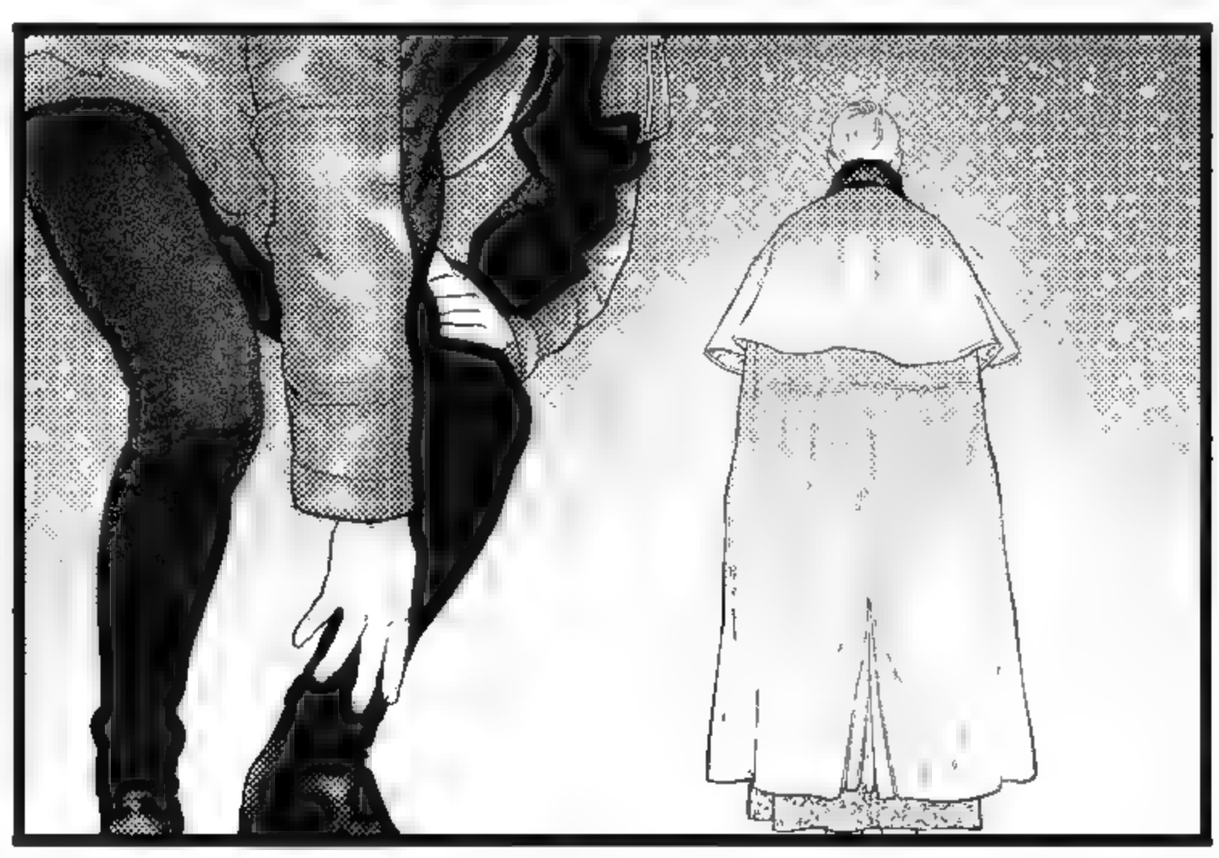
!
MISS?

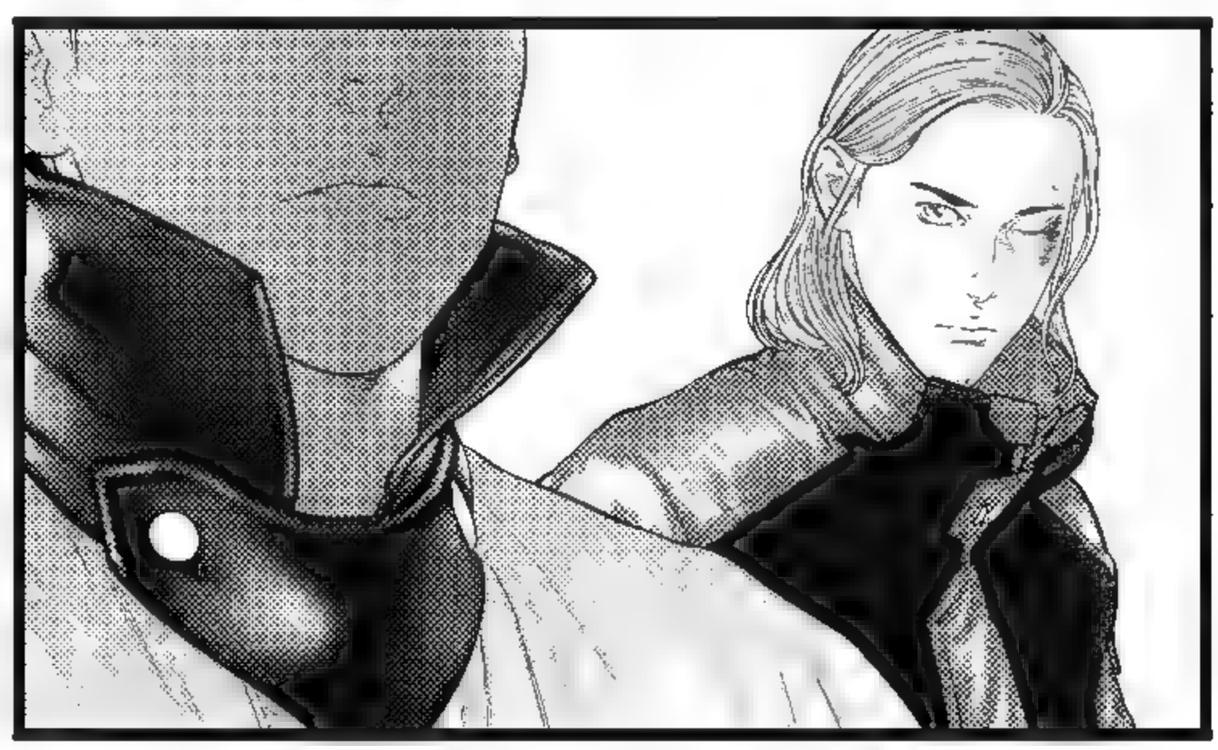
OH...
N-NO. I'M FINE.

MISS MIKOMOTO, ARE YOU HURT?
...

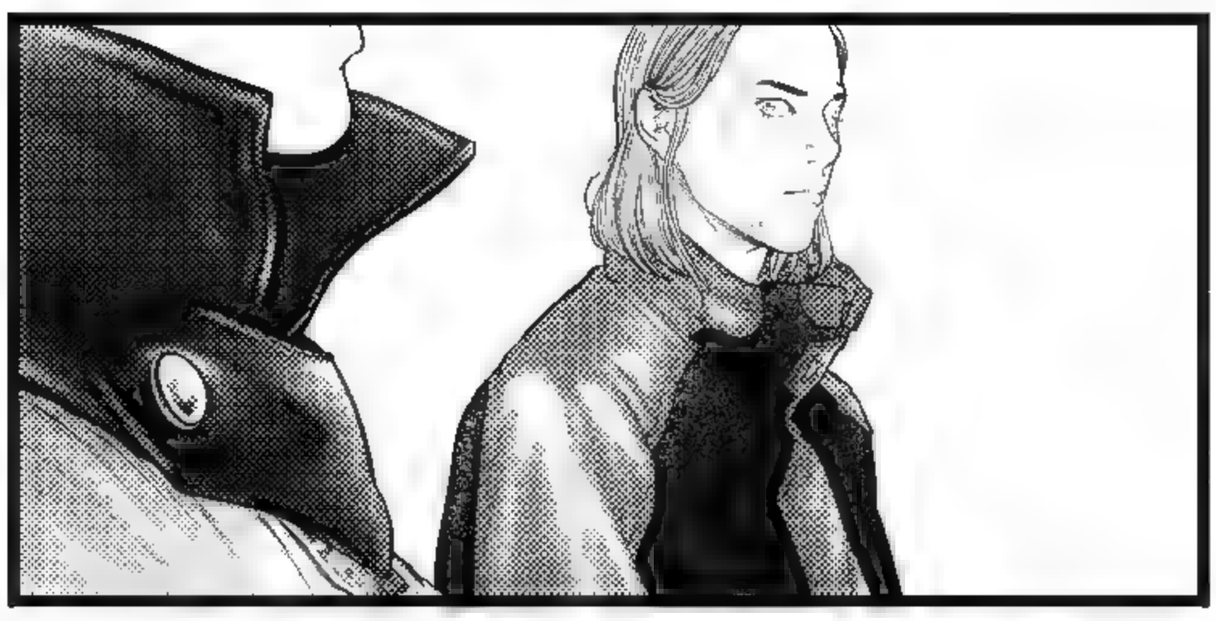
THIS IS TOGUSA.
THE MAYOR IS SECURE.
CLACK


I WAS BORN THE DAUGHTER OF SHINZO MIKOMOTO. I'M THE HEIRESS TO THE OSAKI HEAVY INDUSTRIES EMPIRE.
I LIVED A LIFE OF GLITZ AND GLAMOUR AS AN ACTRESS...





...AND I RAN A SUCCESSFUL BID FOR MAYOR OF NEW PORT. NOW, ON THE NIGHT OF MY INAUGURATION, I'M STARING AT AN EMPTY FIELD.



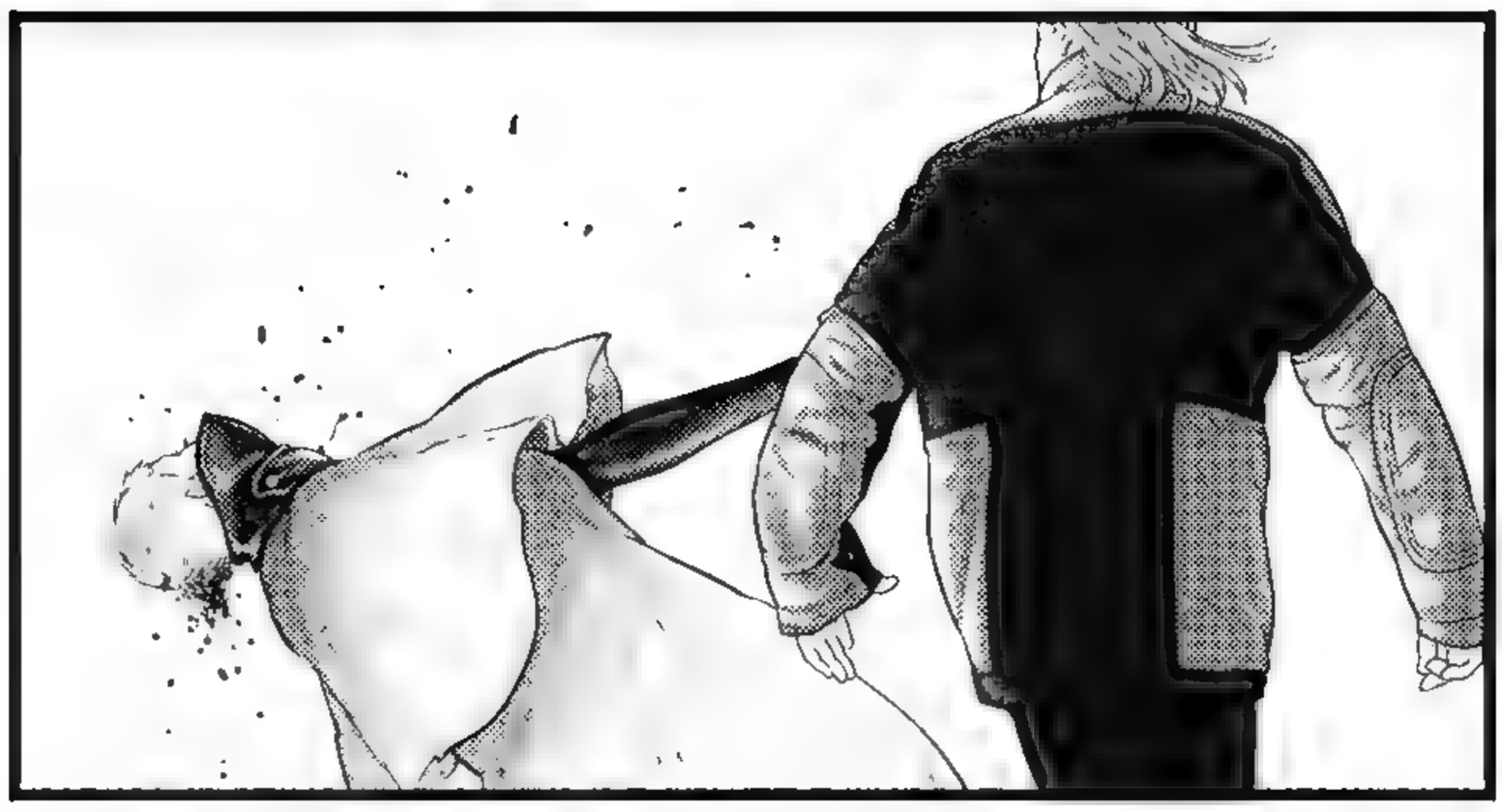
AND YET...
...SOME-HOW...

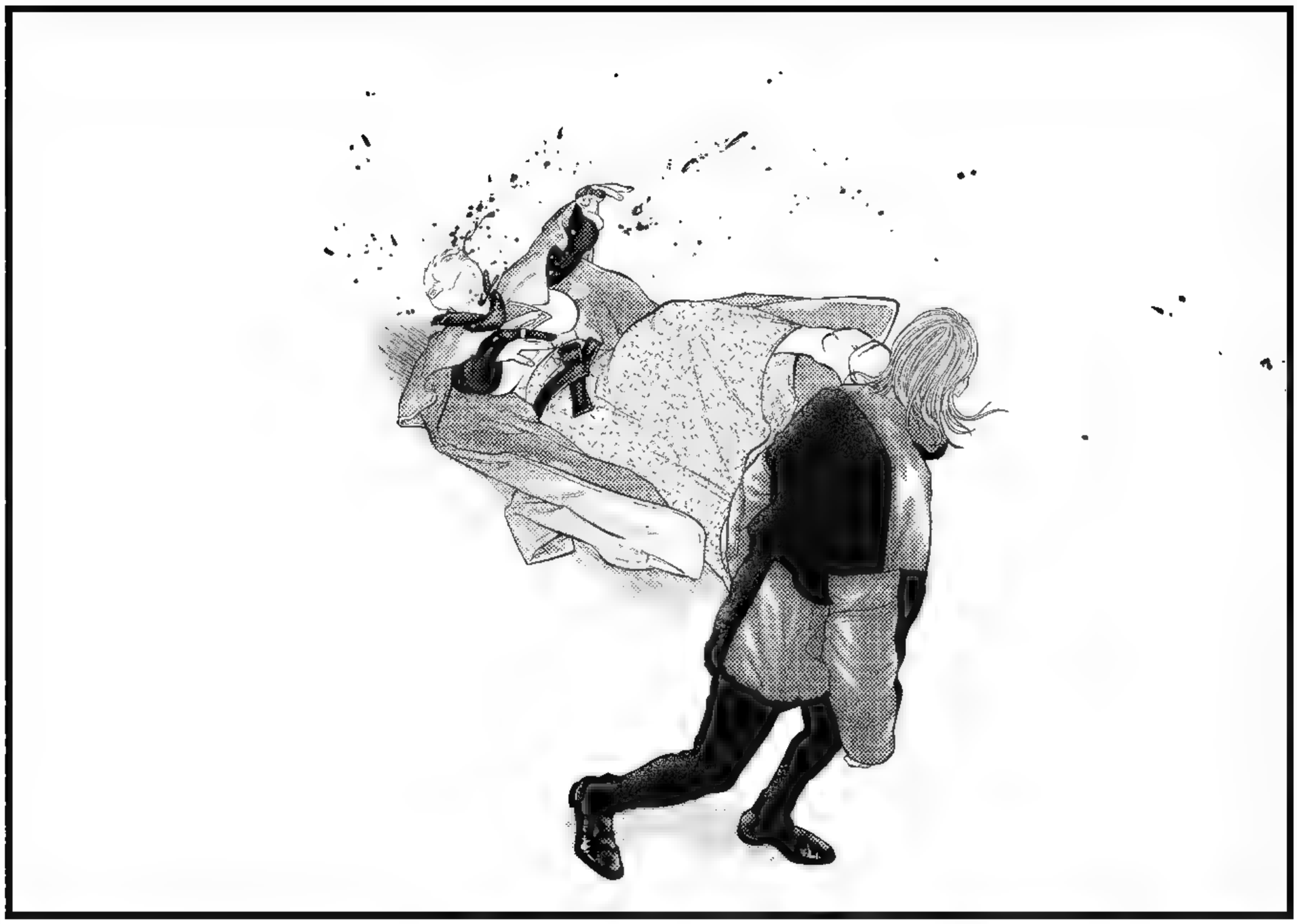
SO THIS IS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO NOT HAVE EVERYTHING GO YOUR WAY.

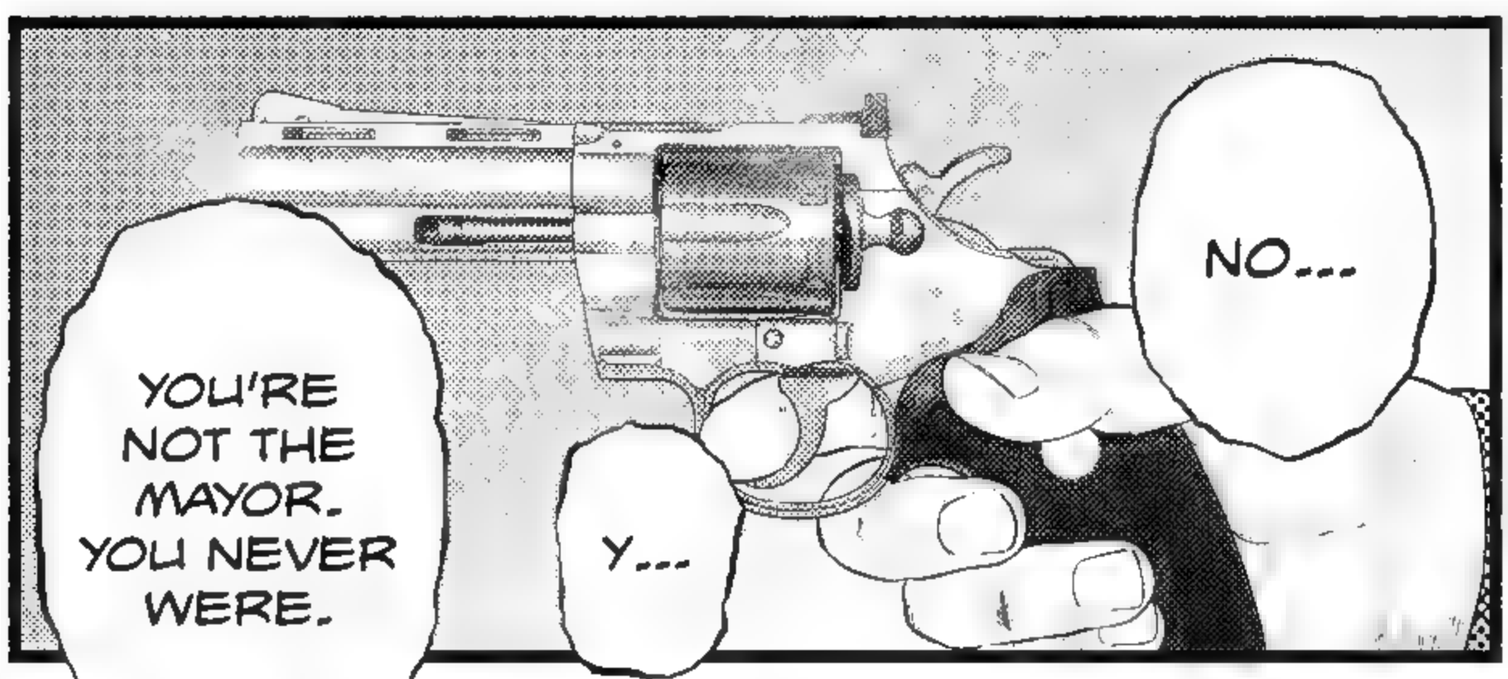
...I FEEL MORE ALIVE THAN EVER.

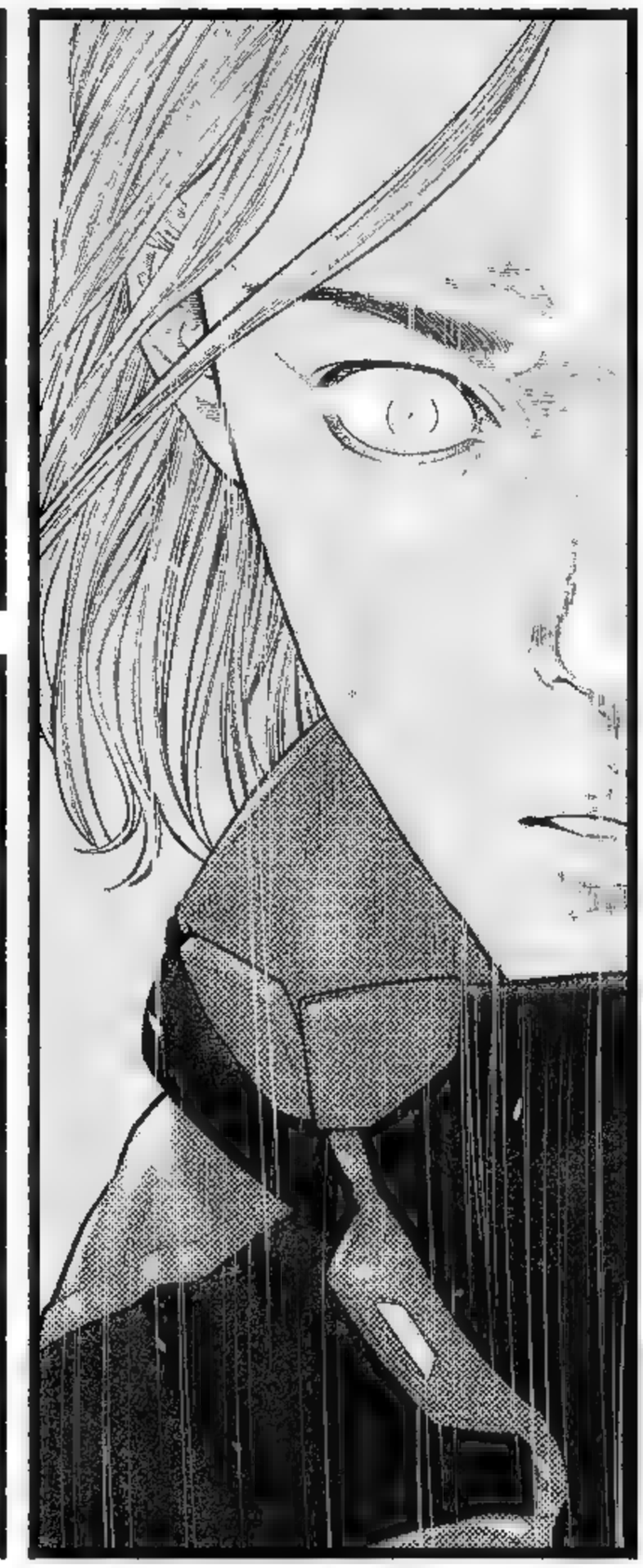
HA HA HA.
HE HE.
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GET YOU HOME.

GUESS WE'LL BE POSTPONING THAT DINNER DATE OF OURS.
HAAAH...



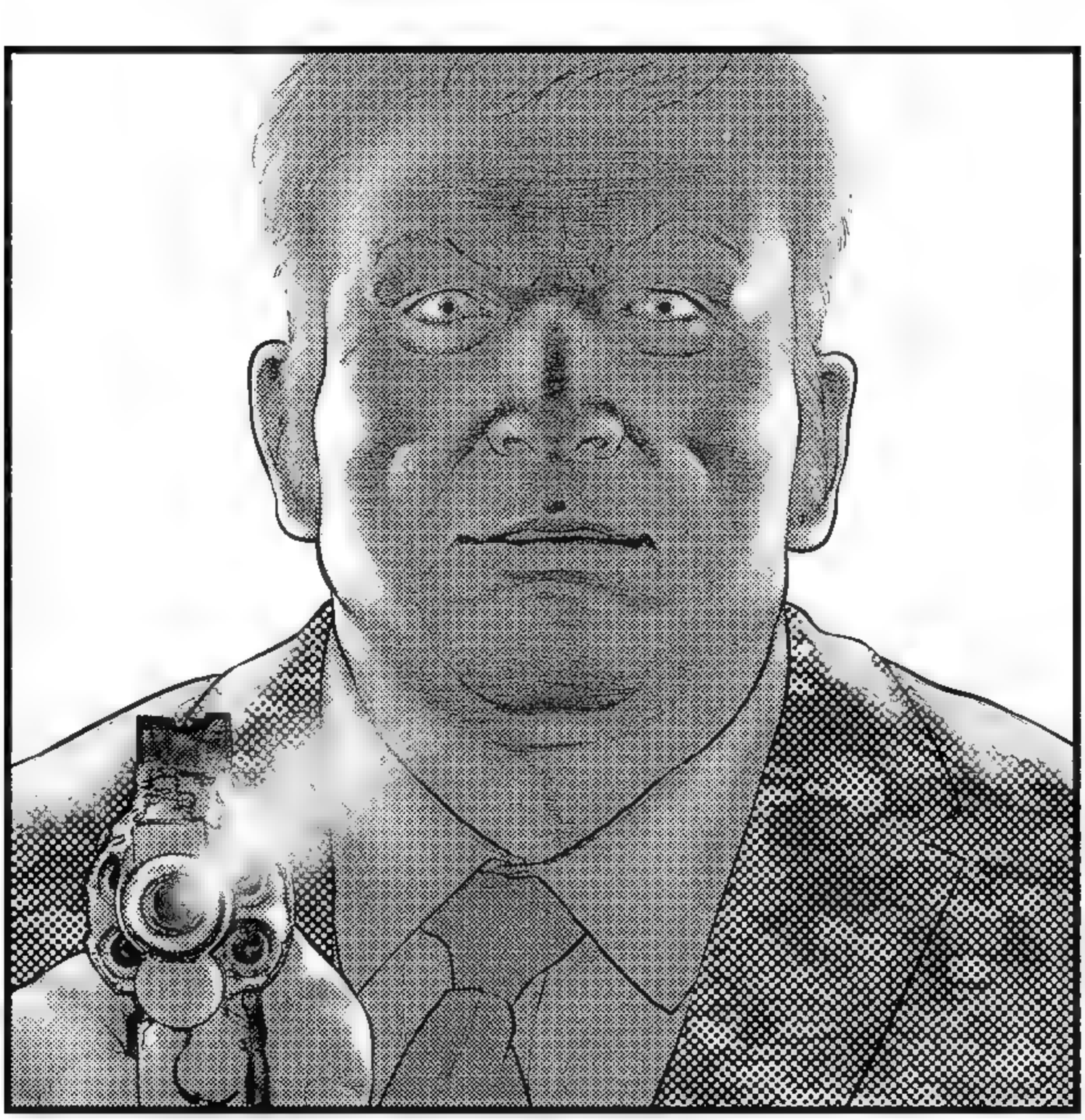



YOU'RE NOT THE MAYOR. YOU NEVER WERE.
Y...
NO...



YOU'RE J-JUST...
...A MEASLY, SPINELESS PUPPET OF OSAKI INDUSTRIES.

KAKUYAMA...

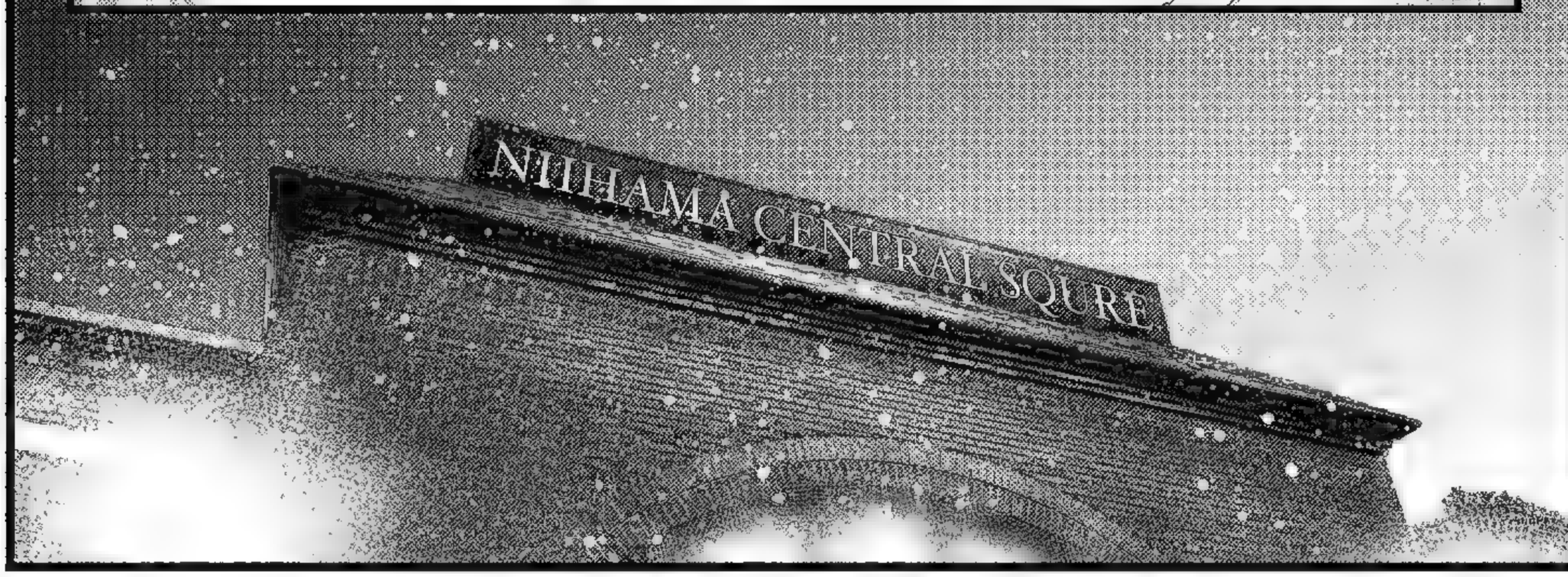


HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
BAM
HA!

THMP
I'M THE TRUE PATRIOT! I'M THE HERO THIS COUNTRY NEEDS...!
IT'S ME...
DAMN TRAITORS...! THAT'S WHAT YOU GET!

THIS IS TOGUSA.
...

SHINRA MIKOMOTO IS DOWN.


NIIHAMA CENTRAL SQURE

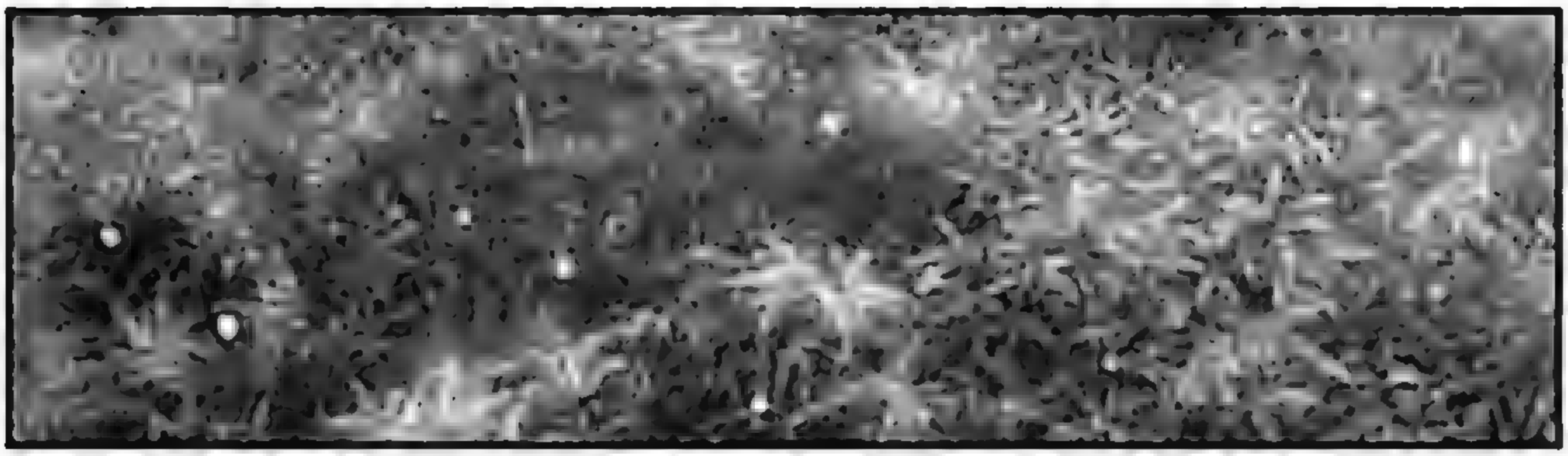
THE GHOST IN THE SHELL

攻殻機動隊

THE HUMAN ALGORITHM

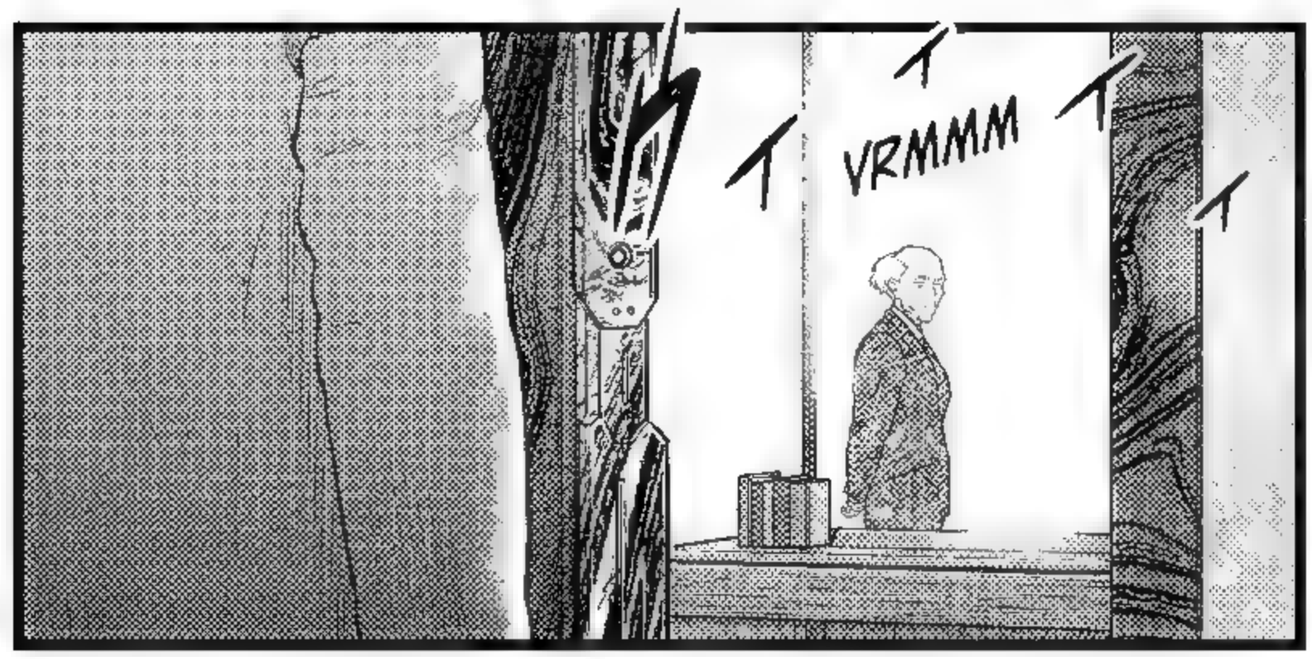
26

TIPPED THE BALANCE



SEND HIM IN.

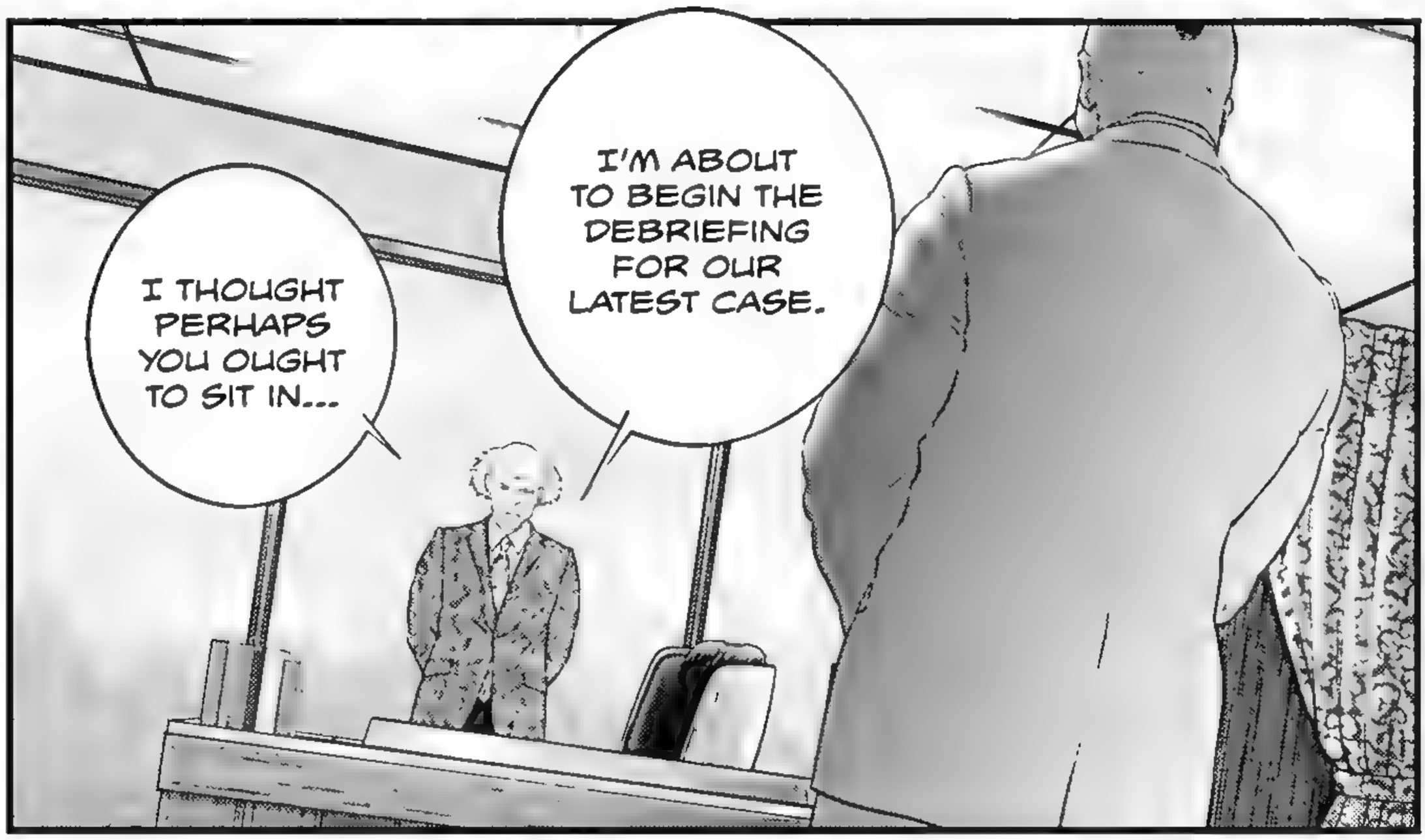
CHIEF ARAMAKI, MR. OTOMO IS HERE TO SEE YOU.


VRMMM

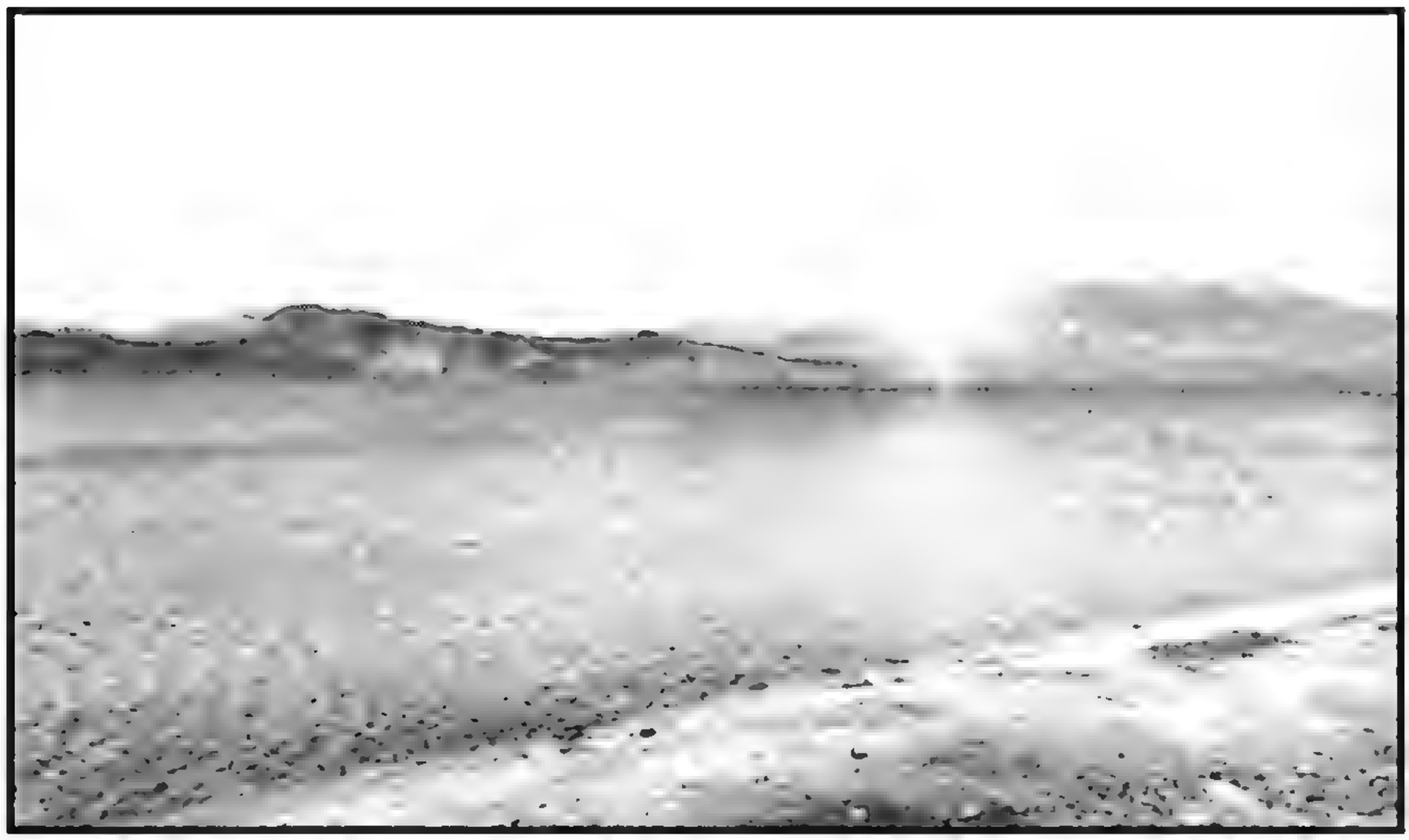
I APPRECIATE YOU COMING.

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?

PLEASE, HAVE A SEAT.
NO, THANKS. I'LL STAND.


I'M ABOUT TO BEGIN THE DEBRIEFING FOR OUR LATEST CASE.
I THOUGHT PERHAPS YOU OUGHT TO SIT IN...

...GIVEN HOW CLOSE YOU ARE TO THE MATTERS AT HAND.



Towada-Hachimantai National Park
十和田湖

KA KREEK
KA KREEK

HEY, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO GO FOR A RIDE IN THIS THING.

REMIND ME WHY *I'M* DOING ALL THE PEDALING?

WHEEZE

THIS IS WAY LESS FUN THAN I IMAGINED.

WHEEZE

...I'M SUPPOSED TO READ ALL OF THIS?

EVERY LAST WORD.

HUH? WHAT'S THIS?

CONFIDENTIAL

OH. ALMOST FORGOT.

FWAP

THE CHIEF HAD A PAPER COPY MADE FOR YOU TO READ. Y'KNOW, BECAUSE OF THE WHOLE *NO CYBERBRAIN* THING.

IT'S THE FINAL CASE REPORT, COMPLETE WITH DETAILS FROM SHOH HASHIKAMI'S TESTIMONY.

...

WE'VE GOT RESERVATIONS FOR *JAPPA-JIRU* HOT POT. WOULDN'T WANT TO MISS IT, WOULD YOU?

BETTER GET STARTED, THEN.

YOU COULD FIT A WHOLE DETECTIVE NOVEL ON A STACK THIS BIG!

I GUESS WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE...

I'M SUCH AN *AWFULLY* SLOW READER...

AHEM. TOGUSA, DARLING?

WE'LL HAVE TO SPEND THE NIGHT HERE IN THIS SWAN BOAT. JUST THE TWO OF US. HOW ROMANTIC! ♡

FINE. GEEZ. I'LL GIVE YOU THE RUNDOWN.

AWW, C'MON! YOU KNOW YOU WANT TO!

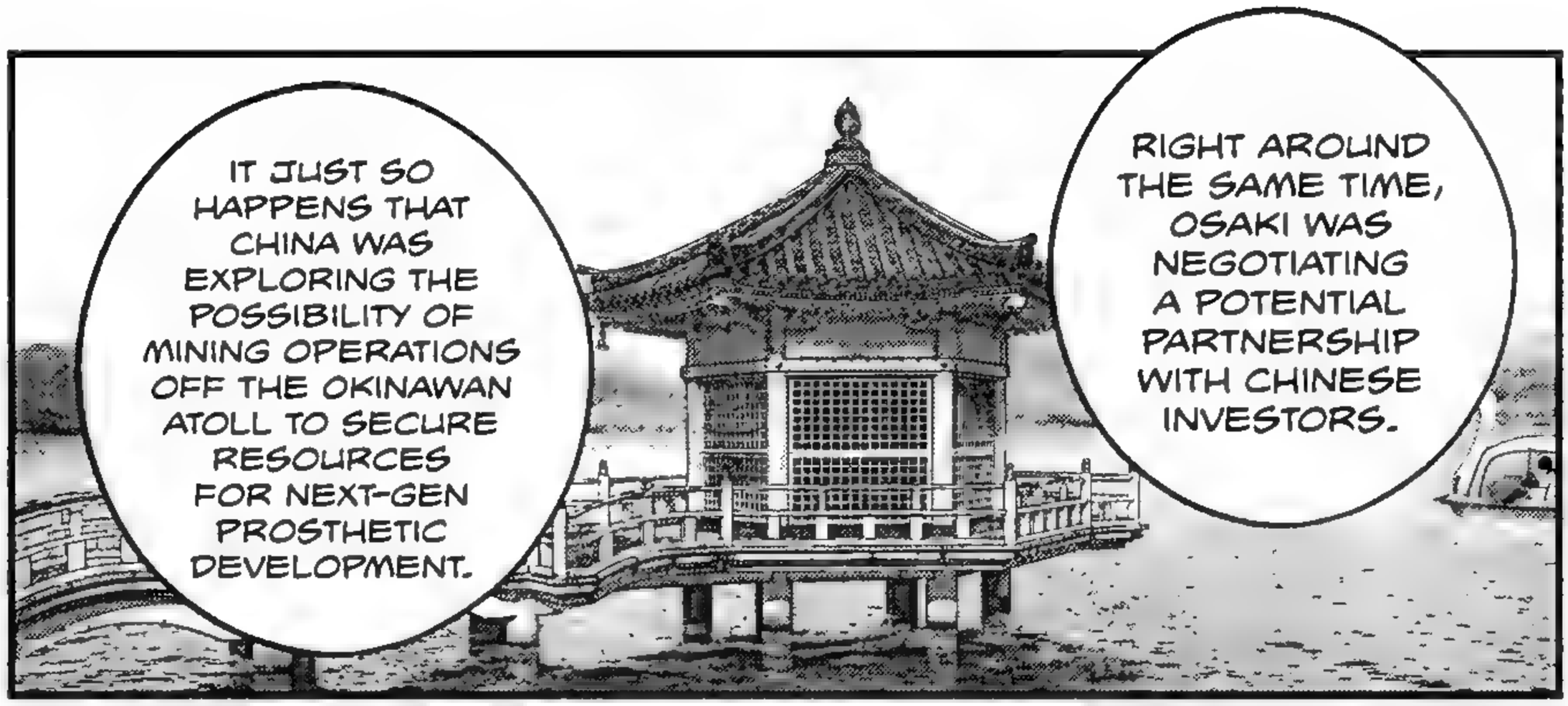
THIS WHOLE MESS STARTED...

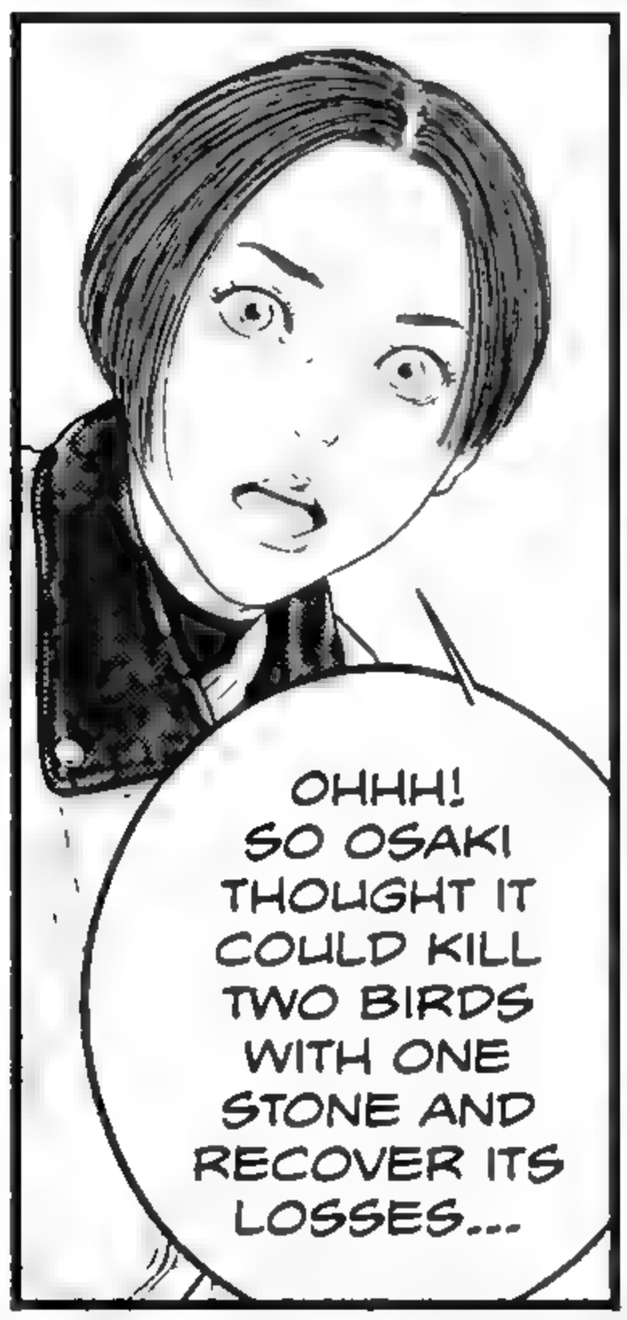
THE COMPANY HAD BEEN FALSIFYING DURABILITY DATA ON ITS MACHINE PARTS IN ORDER TO SKIMP ON COSTS.

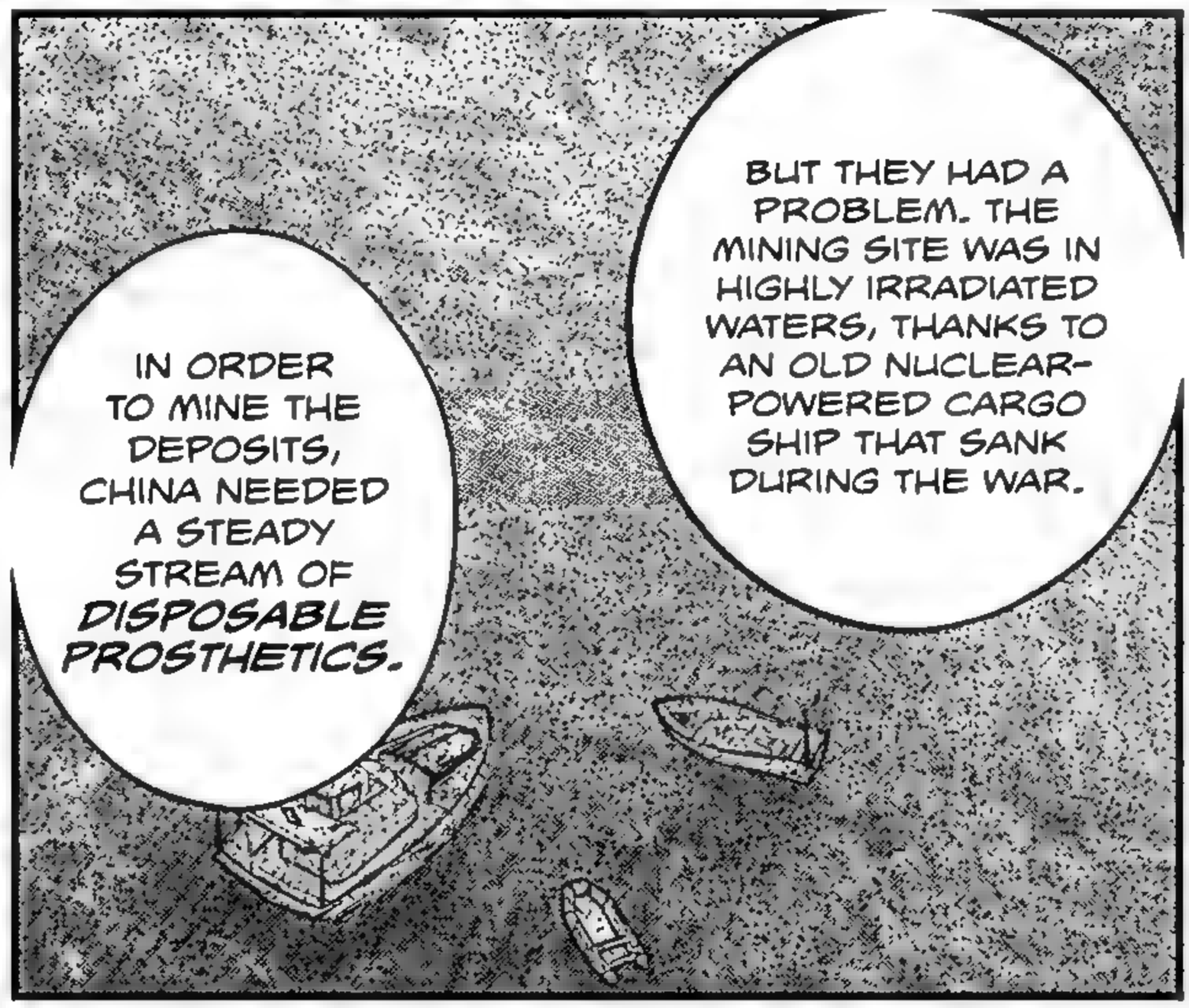
...WITH A MASS RECALL OF OSAKI PROSTHETICS.

PREDICTABLY, ISSUES STARTED CROPPING UP, AND THE COMPANY ANNOUNCED IT WAS RECALLING ALL TYPE-29 MODELS FOR DISPOSAL.

GO ON...

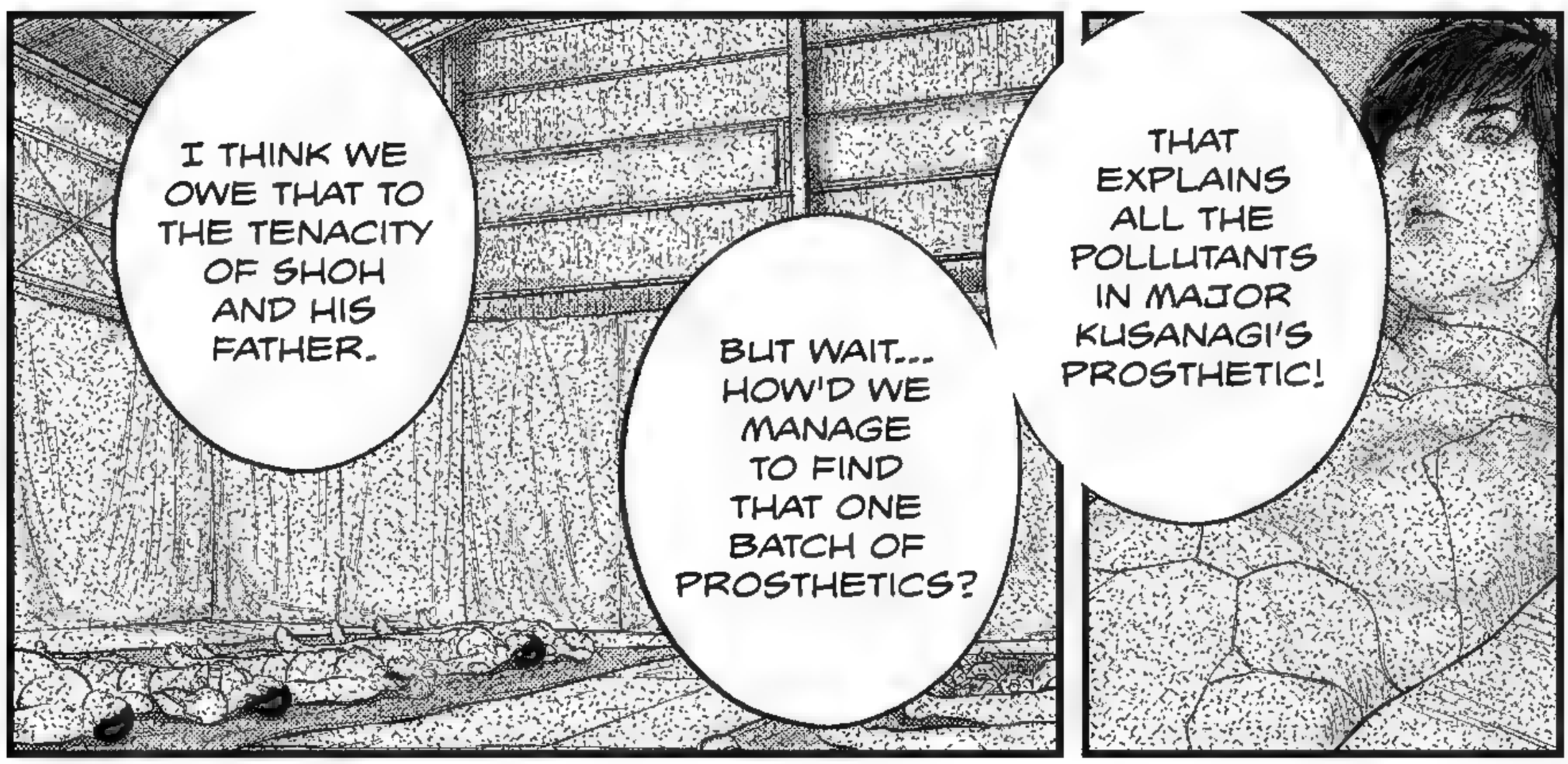

IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT CHINA WAS EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF MINING OPERATIONS OFF THE OKINAWAN ATOLL TO SECURE RESOURCES FOR NEXT-GEN PROSTHETIC DEVELOPMENT.
RIGHT AROUND THE SAME TIME, OSAKI WAS NEGOTIATING A POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIP WITH CHINESE INVESTORS.

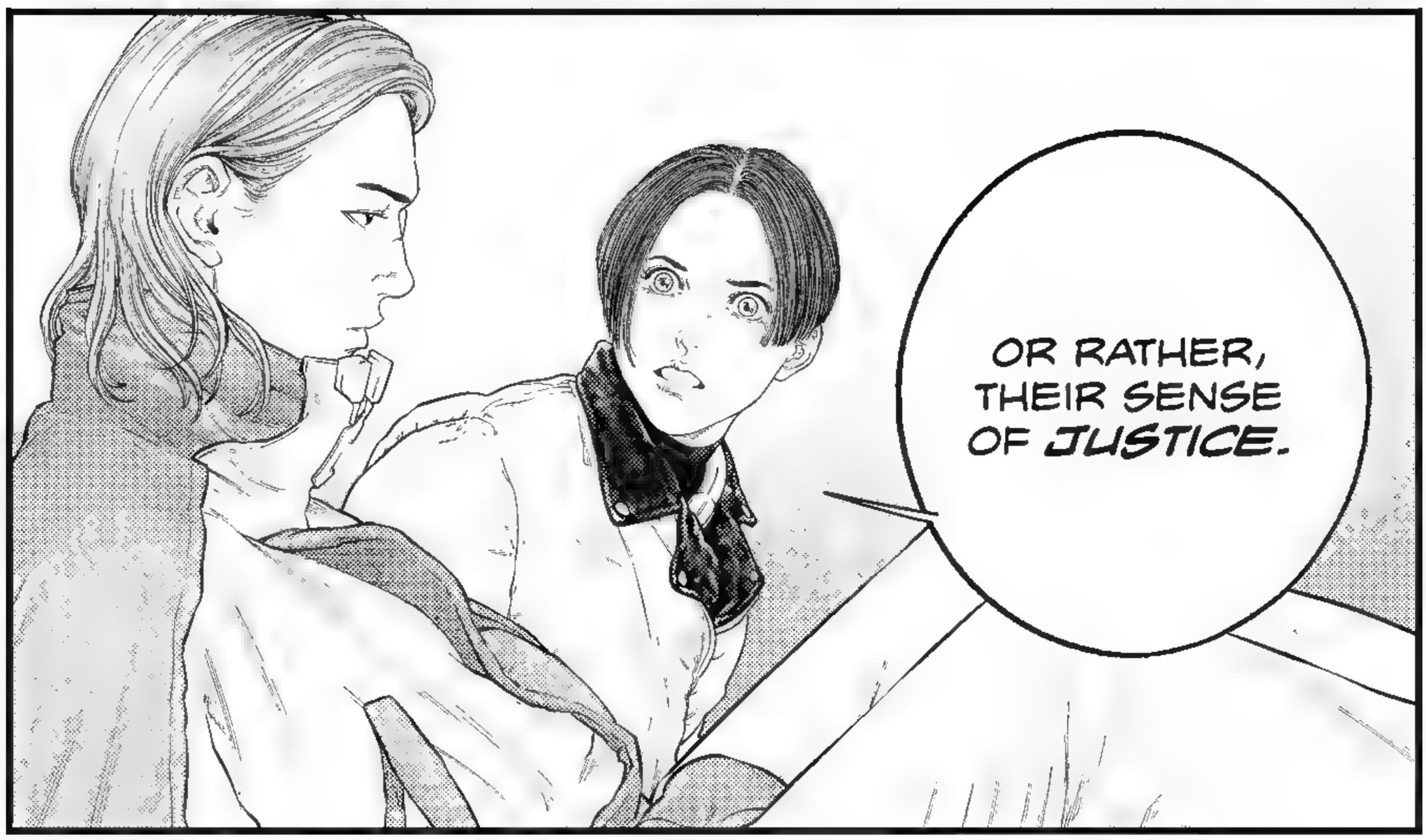

OHHH! SO OSAKI THOUGHT IT COULD KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE AND RECOVER ITS LOSSES...


IN ORDER TO MINE THE DEPOSITS, CHINA NEEDED A STEADY STREAM OF DISPOSABLE PROSTHETICS.
BUT THEY HAD A PROBLEM. THE MINING SITE WAS IN HIGHLY IRRADIATED WATERS, THANKS TO AN OLD NUCLEAR-POWERED CARGO SHIP THAT SANK DURING THE WAR.

THAT'S WHAT REALLY STARTED OSAKI GOING OFF THE RAILS.
EXACTLY.

...SO THEY GOT ATERUI TO TAKE CARE OF THINGS BEHIND THE SCENES.
NOW THEY HAD A BUNCH OF CONTAMINATED PROSTHETICS THEY COULDN'T DISPOSE OF THROUGH NORMAL CHANNELS...

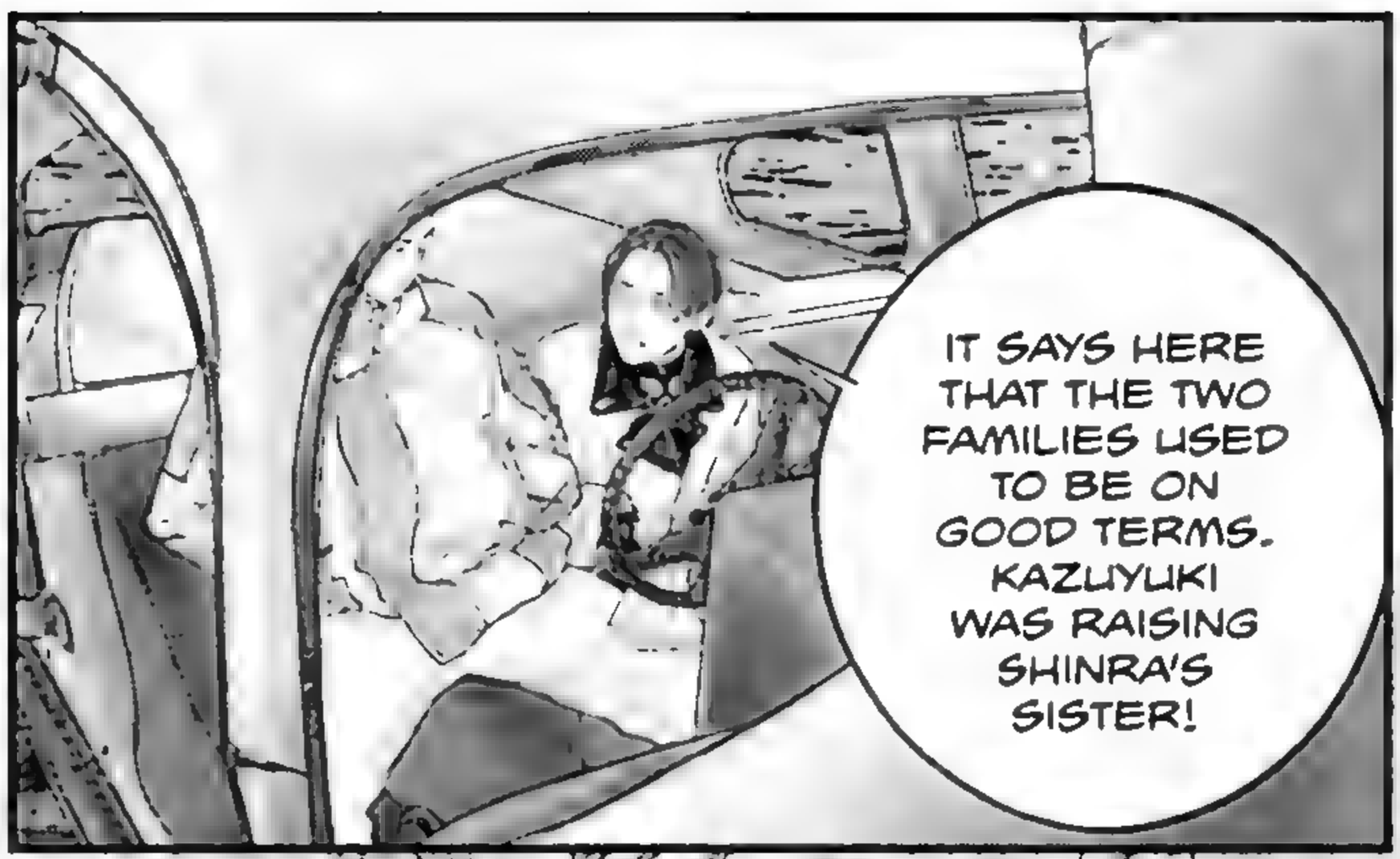

I THINK WE OWE THAT TO THE TENACITY OF SHOH AND HIS FATHER.
BUT WAIT... HOW'D WE MANAGE TO FIND THAT ONE BATCH OF PROSTHETICS?
THAT EXPLAINS ALL THE POLLUTANTS IN MAJOR KUSANAGI'S PROSTHETIC!


OR RATHER, THEIR SENSE OF JUSTICE.

WHEN KAZUYUKI GOT WORD OF ALL THIS...
...HE TRIED TO APPEAL DIRECTLY TO THE FOUNDER, SHINZO MIKOMOTO.

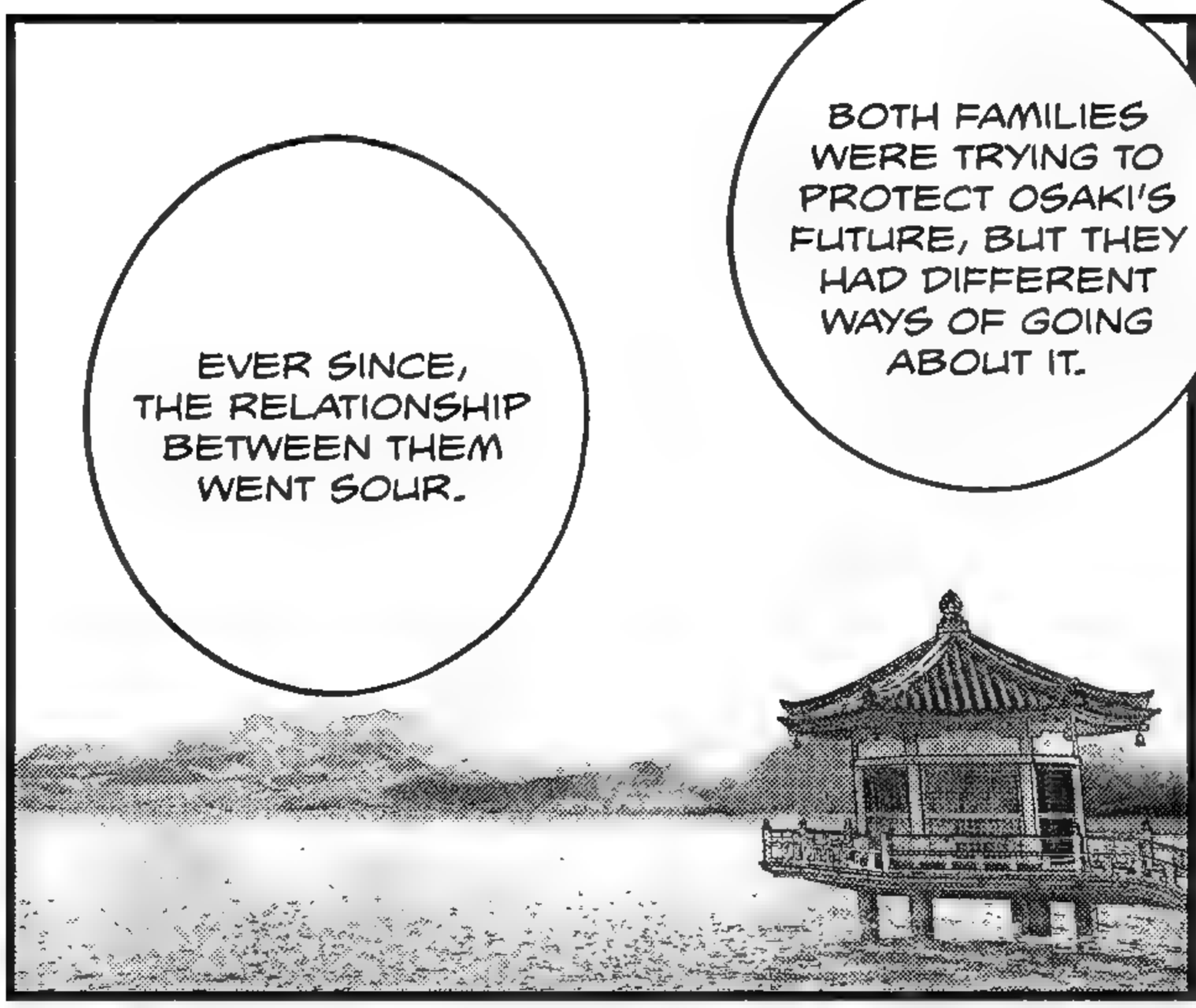
SHOH REALIZED WHAT WAS GOING ON AND SPOKE OUT, BUT THE HIGHER-UPS MADE SURE HIS COMPLAINTS GOT BURIED.

BOTH FATHER AND SON TRIED TO STAND UP FOR WHAT'S RIGHT...
OSAKI RESPONDED WITH A FEW BULLETS TO THE CHEST.
...ONLY FOR ONE TO BE KILLED...
...AND THE OTHER DRIVEN INTO HIDING.



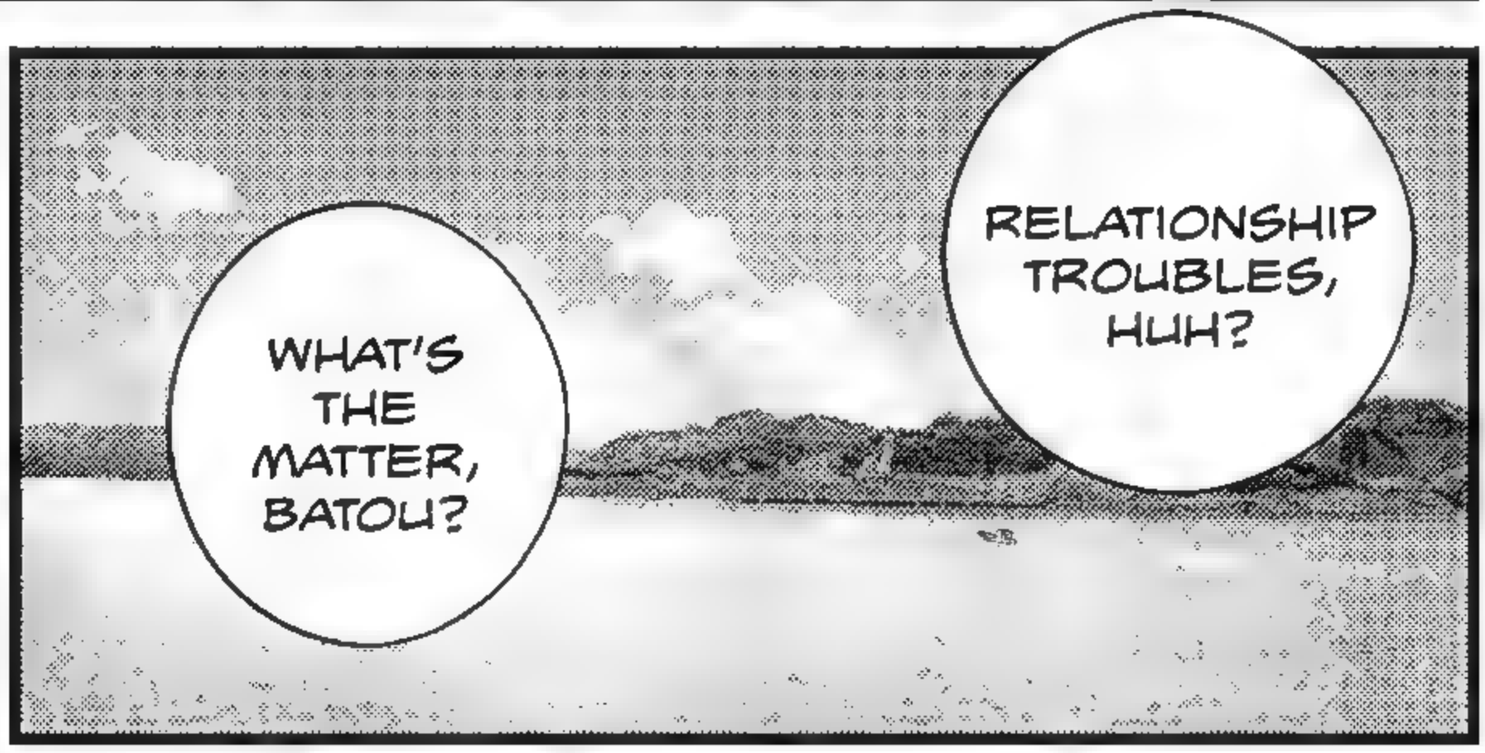
...AND THE MIKOMOTO CLAN, DETERMINED TO COVER IT UP.

THE HASHIKAMI CLAN, DETERMINED TO RIGHT A WRONG...


EVER SINCE, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THEM WENT SOUR.
BOTH FAMILIES WERE TRYING TO PROTECT OSAKI'S FUTURE, BUT THEY HAD DIFFERENT WAYS OF GOING ABOUT IT.

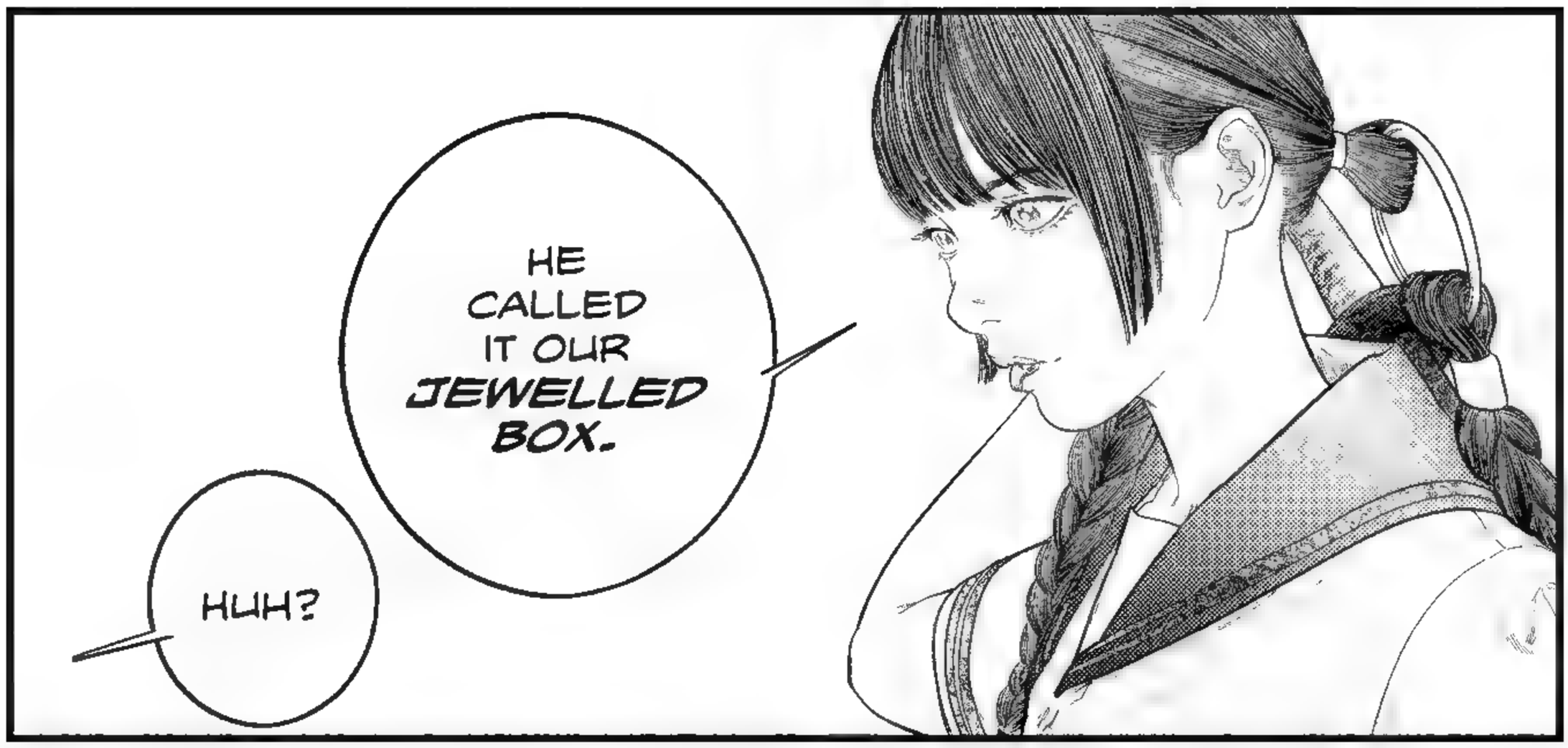
FRSHSHH

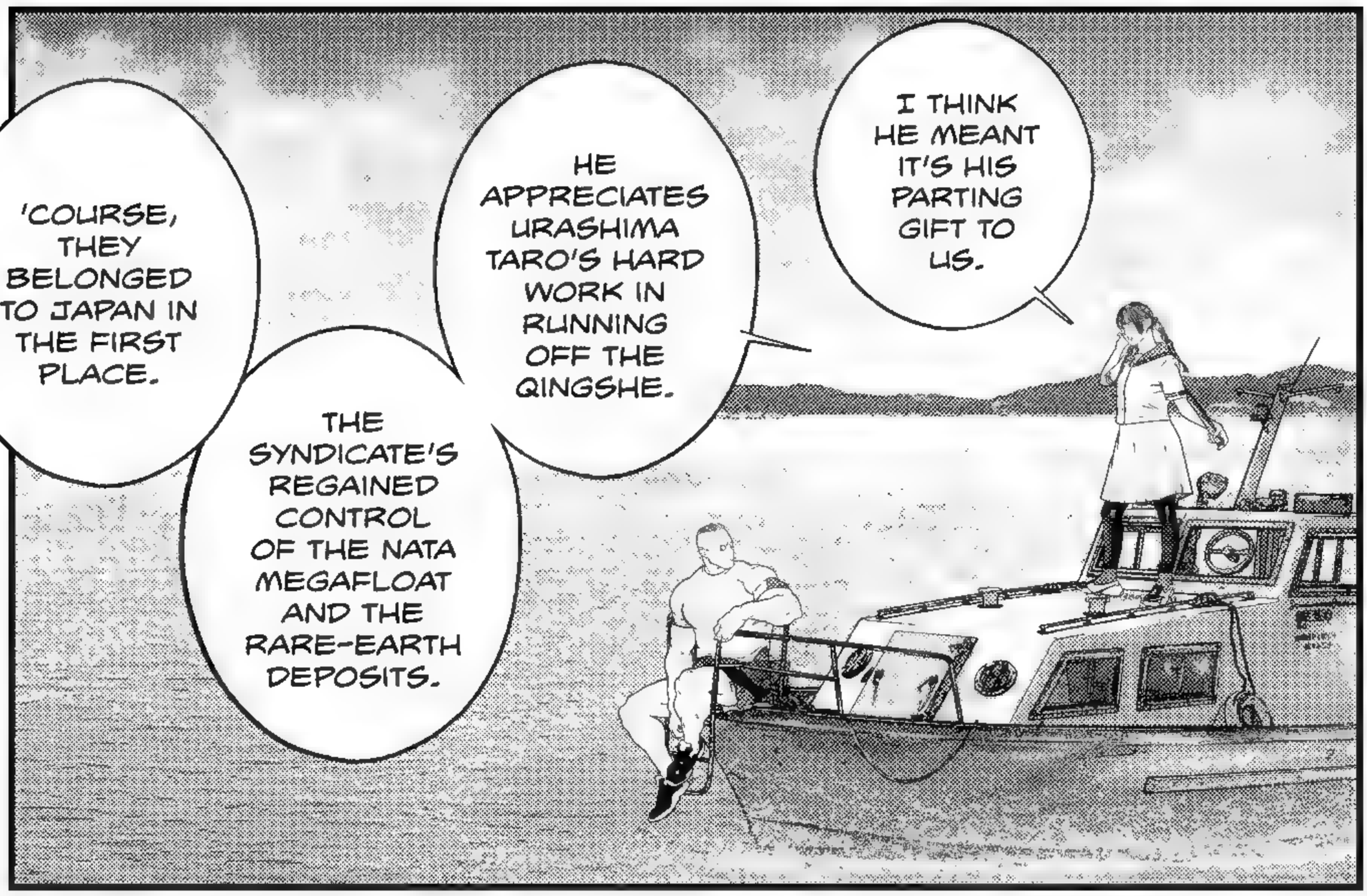
HEY, ISHIKAWA...
ANSWER ME ONE QUESTION.


WHAT'S THE MATTER, BATOU?
RELATIONSHIP TROUBLES, HUH?

ALMOST SOUNDS LIKE *YOU'RE* REMEMBERING SOMETHING FROM YOUR PAST.

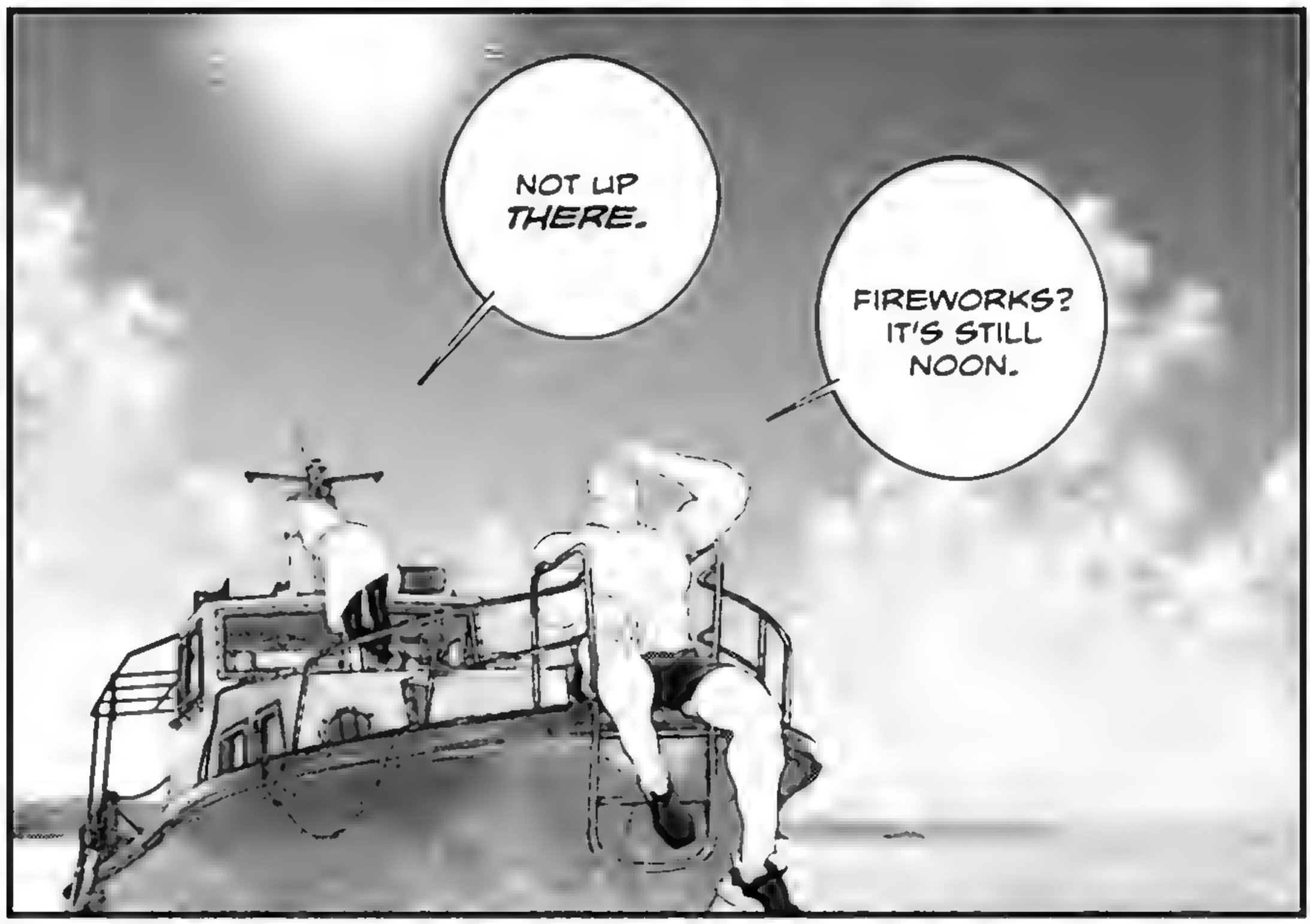
HM?
WHY ARE YOU A SCHOOLGIRL AGAIN?
OH, THIS?
TWIRL
AND HE DID IT ALL ON HIS DIME!
HA HA!
YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT! THE YAMBARU BOSS FIXED HER UP FOR ME. SAID A GIRL WITH SUCH A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD OF HER OUGHT TO GET A CHANCE TO SEE IT.
TALK ABOUT BAD RELATION-SHIPS...


HE CALLED IT OUR JEWELLED BOX.
HUH?

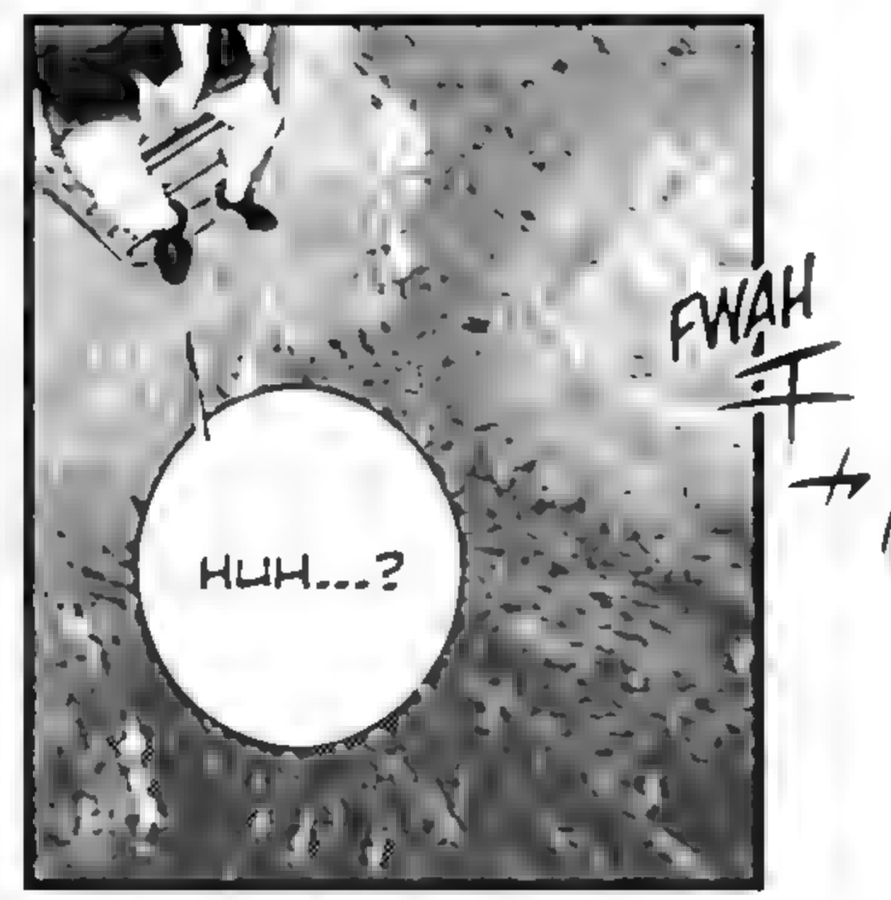

I THINK HE MEANT IT'S HIS PARTING GIFT TO US.
HE APPRECIATES URASHIMA TARO'S HARD WORK IN RUNNING OFF THE QINGSHE.
'COURSE, THEY BELONGED TO JAPAN IN THE FIRST PLACE.
THE SYNDICATE'S REGAINED CONTROL OF THE NATA MEGAFLOAT AND THE RARE-EARTH DEPOSITS.

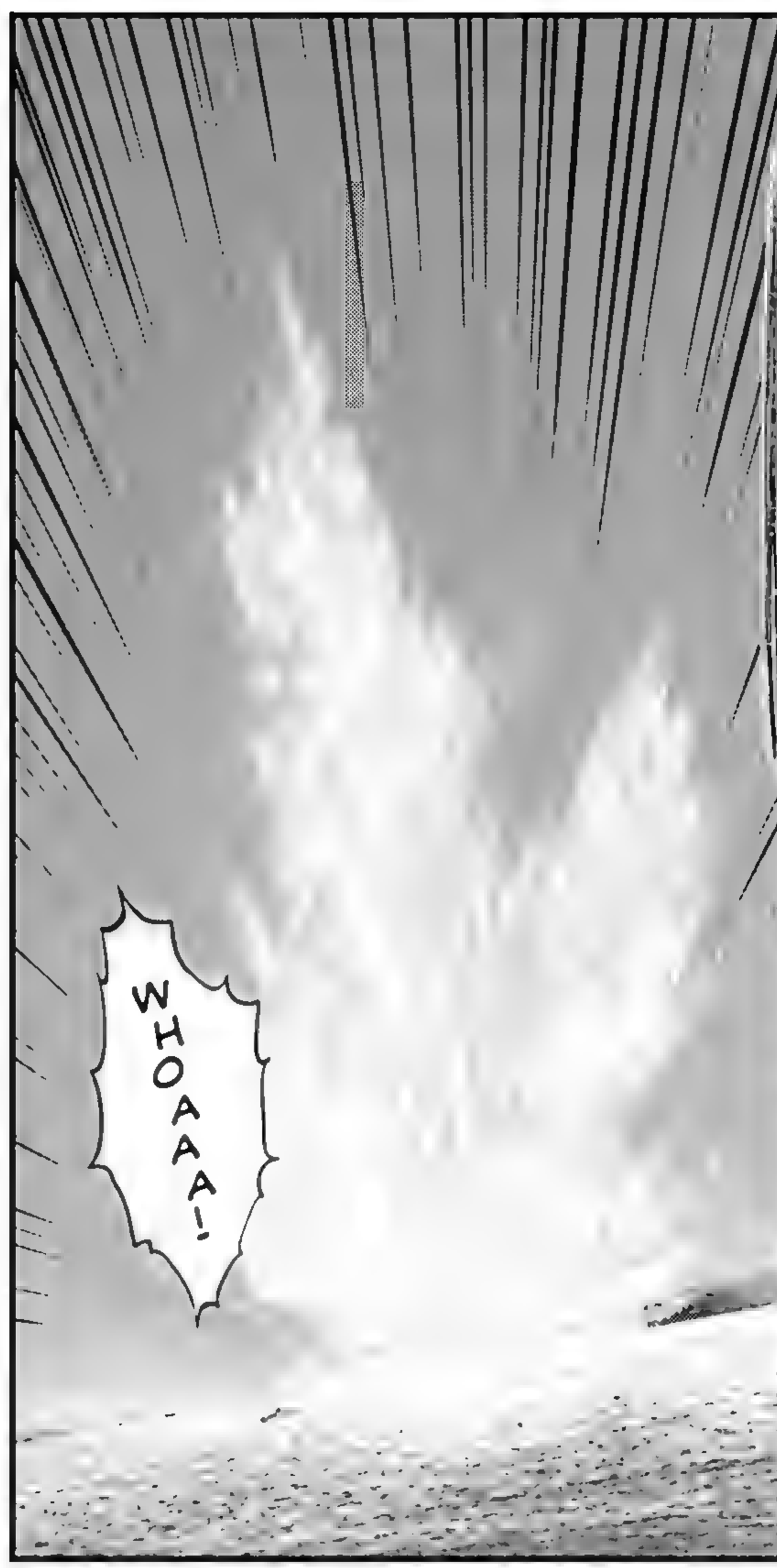
THE BOSS SEEMED REAL EXCITED ABOUT RESTORING OKINAWA, TOO. HE WANTS TO BRING BACK THE GOOD OLD DAYS.
...

I ALSO THOUGHT YOU MIGHT ENJOY THE FIREWORKS.
THAT'S ONE REASON.
AND YOU BROUGHT ME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE, TO THE MOST DANGEROUS WATERS IN JAPAN, JUST TO TELL ME THAT?
HMPH.


NOT UP THERE.
FIREWORKS? IT'S STILL NOON.

THWIP
SHOW-TIME!


FWAH
HUH...?


WHOAAA!

KABOOOM
?!

WHA-

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?!
VSSSHHH
THAT WAS THE DRAGON PALACE YOU VISITED.
THEY BLEW IT UP?
WHY BOTHER? THE TRIADS PROBABLY STRIPPED THE PLACE.
SEEMS THE GOVERNMENT'S DECIDED TO PRETEND IT NEVER EXISTED.
MY GUESS IS THEY ALSO WANTED TO SEND A MESSAGE.

"DON'T MESS WITH JAPAN."

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

A MAJOR SECURITY FLAW IN OSAKI PROSTHETICS HAS BEEN EXPOSED...

...I BELIEVE THAT JUST ABOUT SUMS IT UP.

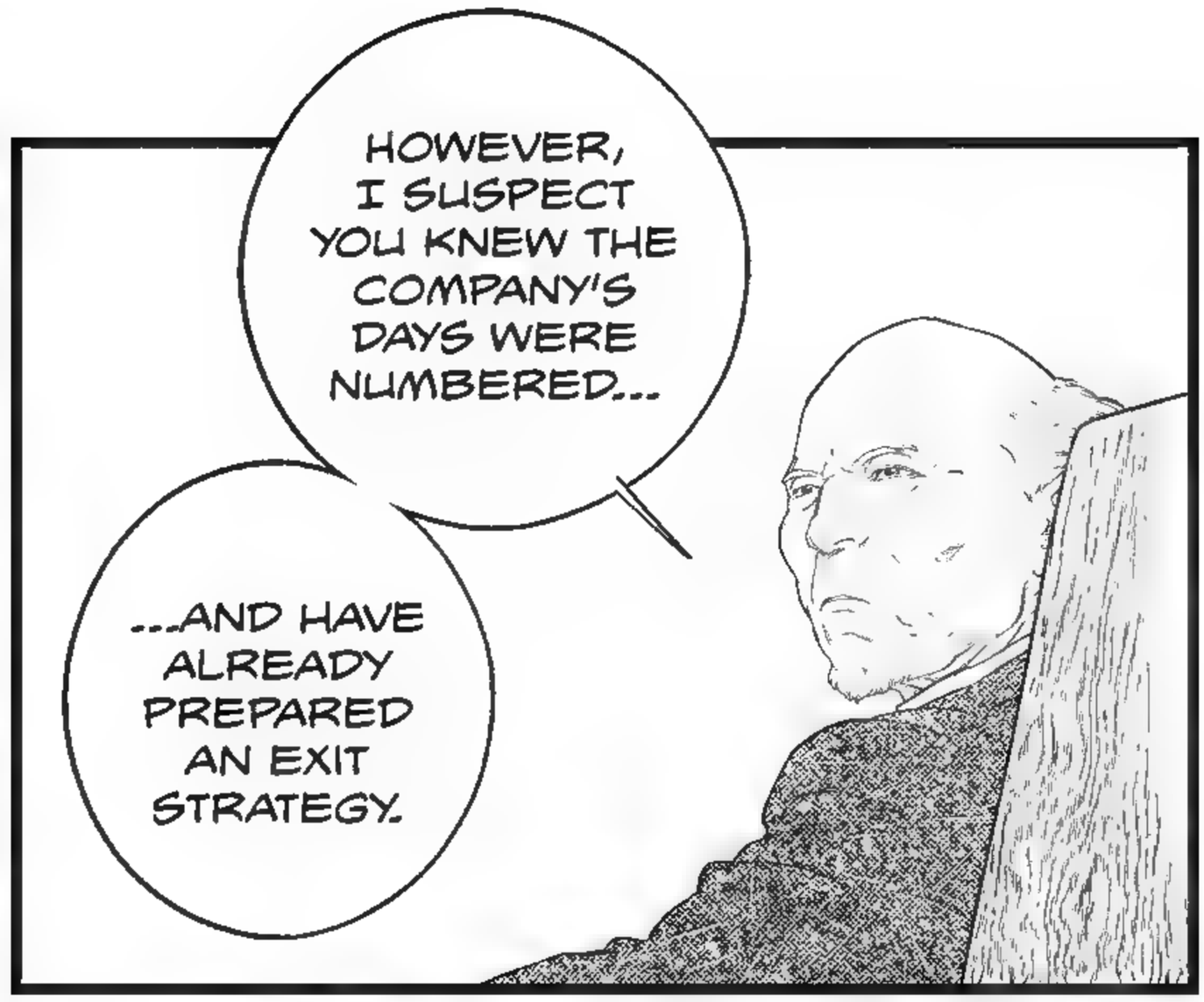
I THINK IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT OSAKI HEAVY INDUSTRIES IS FINISHED...

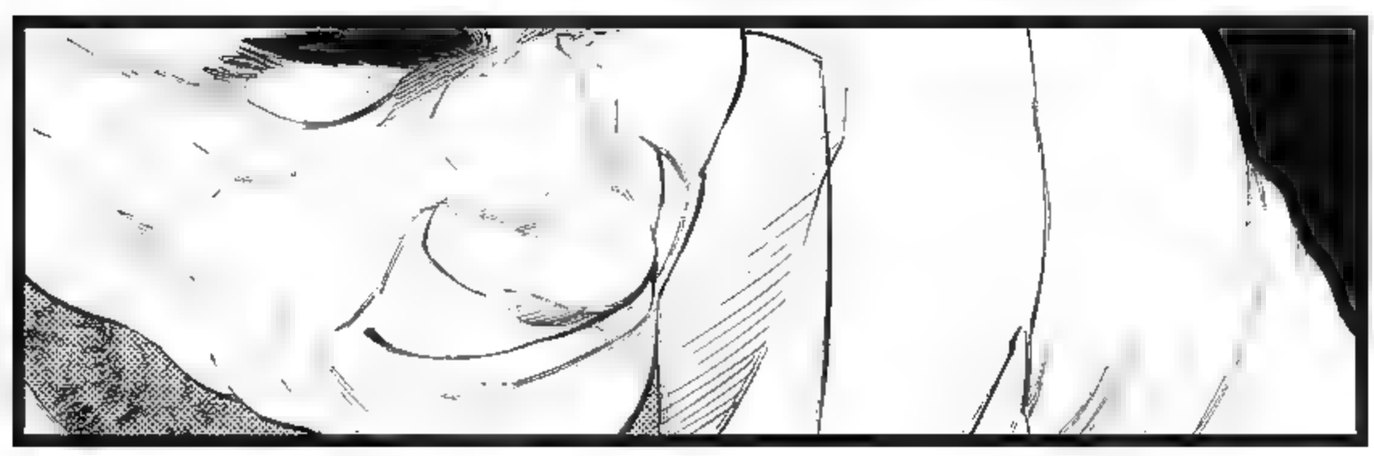
...AND THE ORIGINAL RECALL AND ITS COVER-UP WILL SOON COME UNDER SCRUTINY.

...THE PARTNERSHIP WITH XUANWU INSTRUMENTS HAS FALLEN THROUGH...

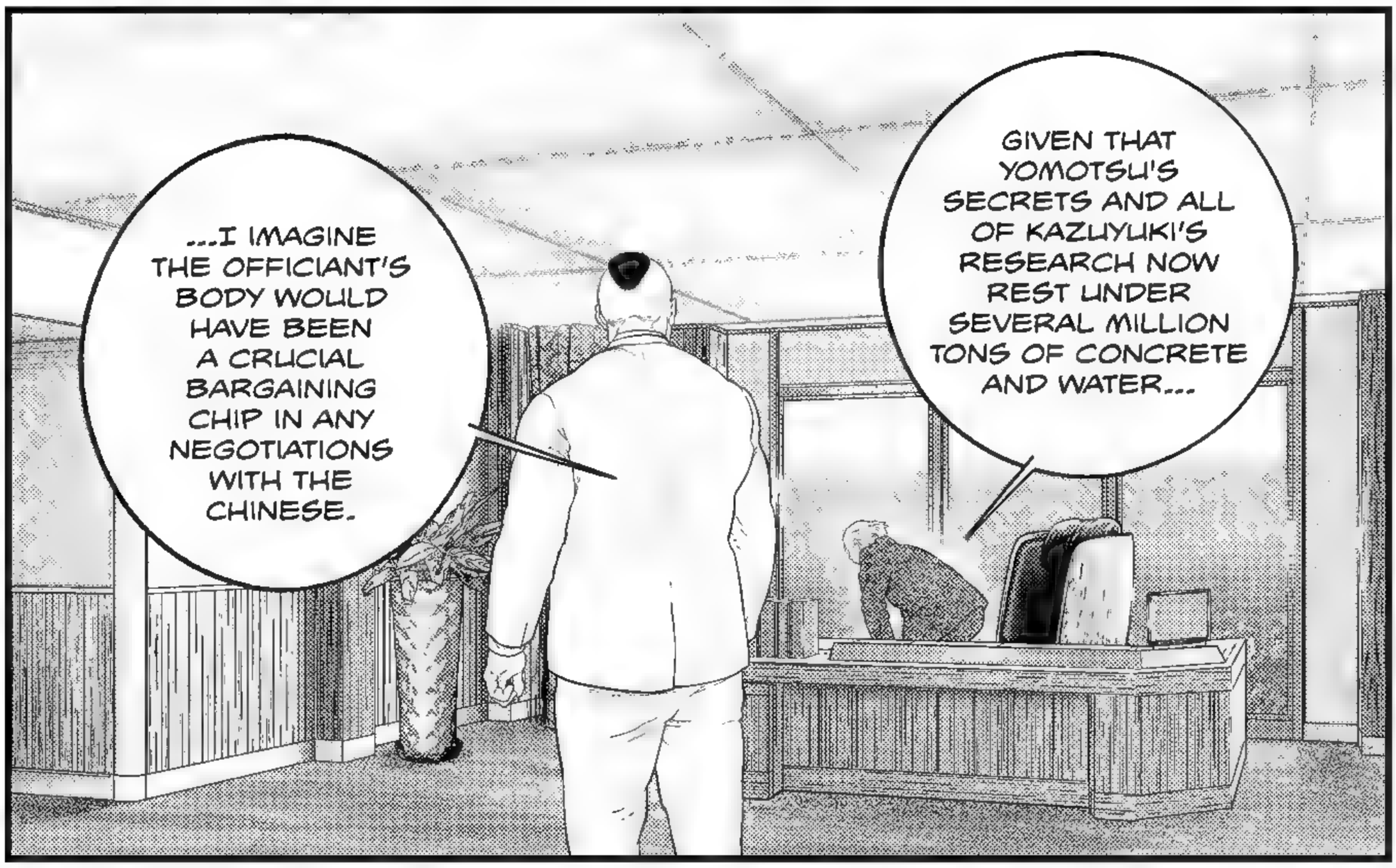
...JUST AS KAZUYUKI HASHIKAMI WISHED.

CHIEF ARAMAKI, I APPRECIATE THE CHAT...
CREAK
...BUT I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR ME TO BE GOING.

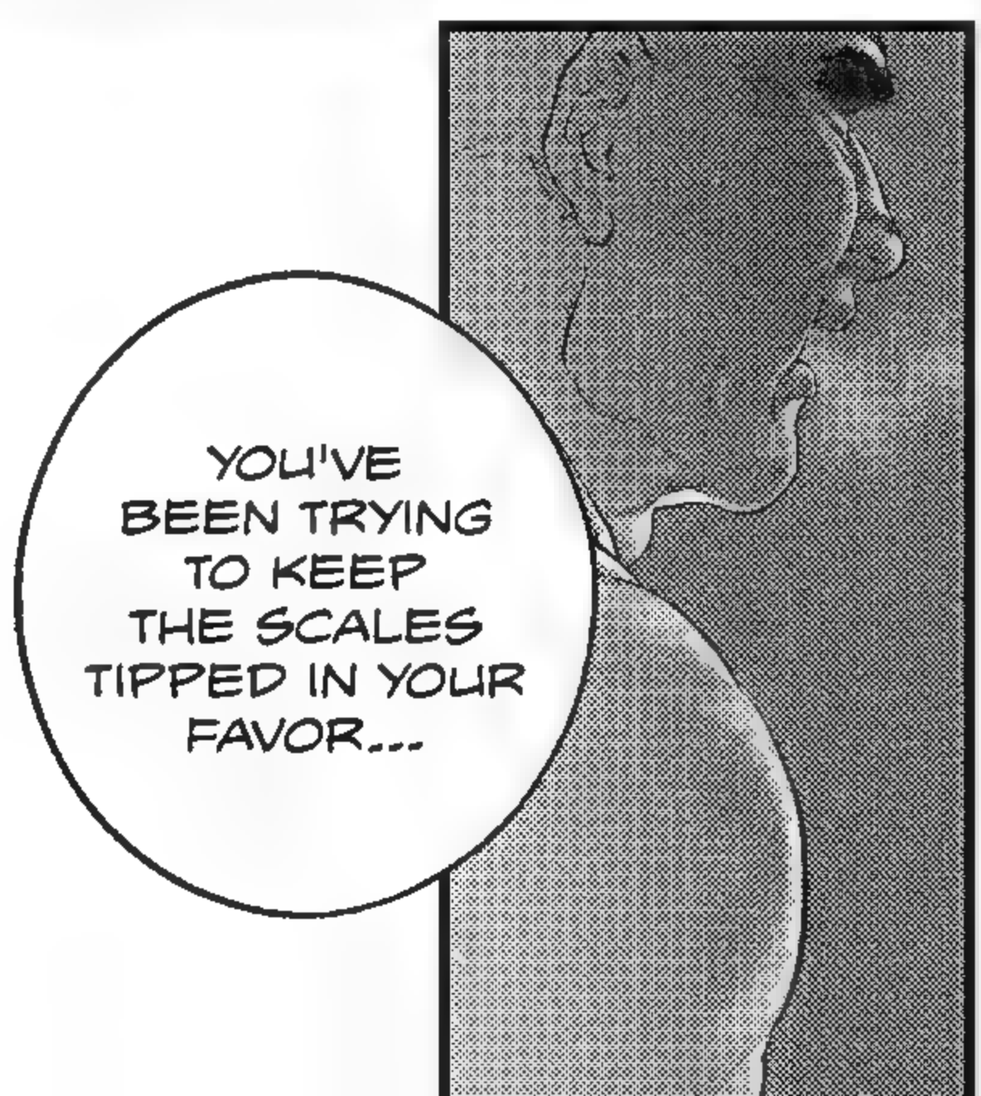

HOWEVER, I SUSPECT YOU KNEW THE COMPANY'S DAYS WERE NUMBERED...
...AND HAVE ALREADY PREPARED AN EXIT STRATEGY.



...BUT NO OTHER VESSEL WILL TAKE YOU ABOARD.
MAKE NO MISTAKE. YOU MAY MANAGE TO JUMP SHIP BEFORE OSAKI SINKS...



...BUT NOW YOU HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO TIP THEM WITH.



IMAGINE THAT. PERHAPS IT'S JUST ONE OF THOSE ERRORS...
I UNDERSTAND THE ACCIDENT WAS THE RESULT OF THE TRUCK SWERVING TO AVOID A SINGLE CROW THAT FLEW ONTO THE ROAD.
...THAT KAZUYUKI SO CHERISHED.

TUG
TIME TO KICK BACK... ♫
...AND CELEBRATE A JOB WELL DONE... ♫

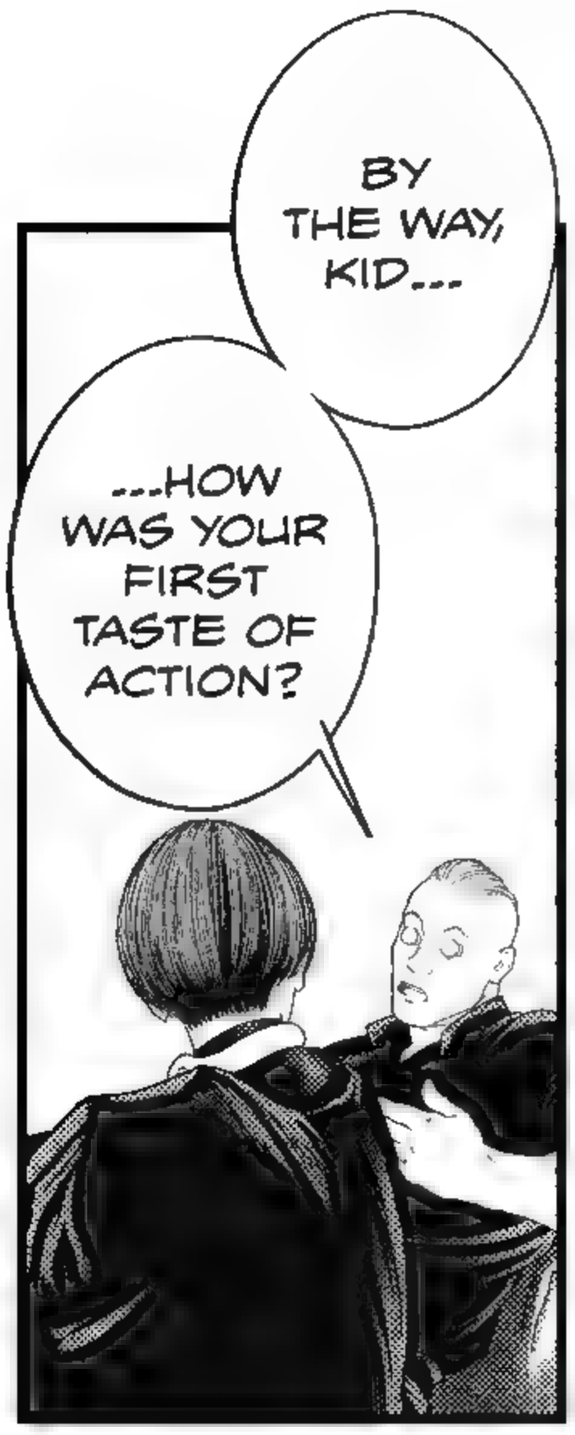
...TONIGHT, WE DRINK!
YEAH! ♫
HA HA HA!

Bar

HEY, GUYS! SORRY I'M LATE!

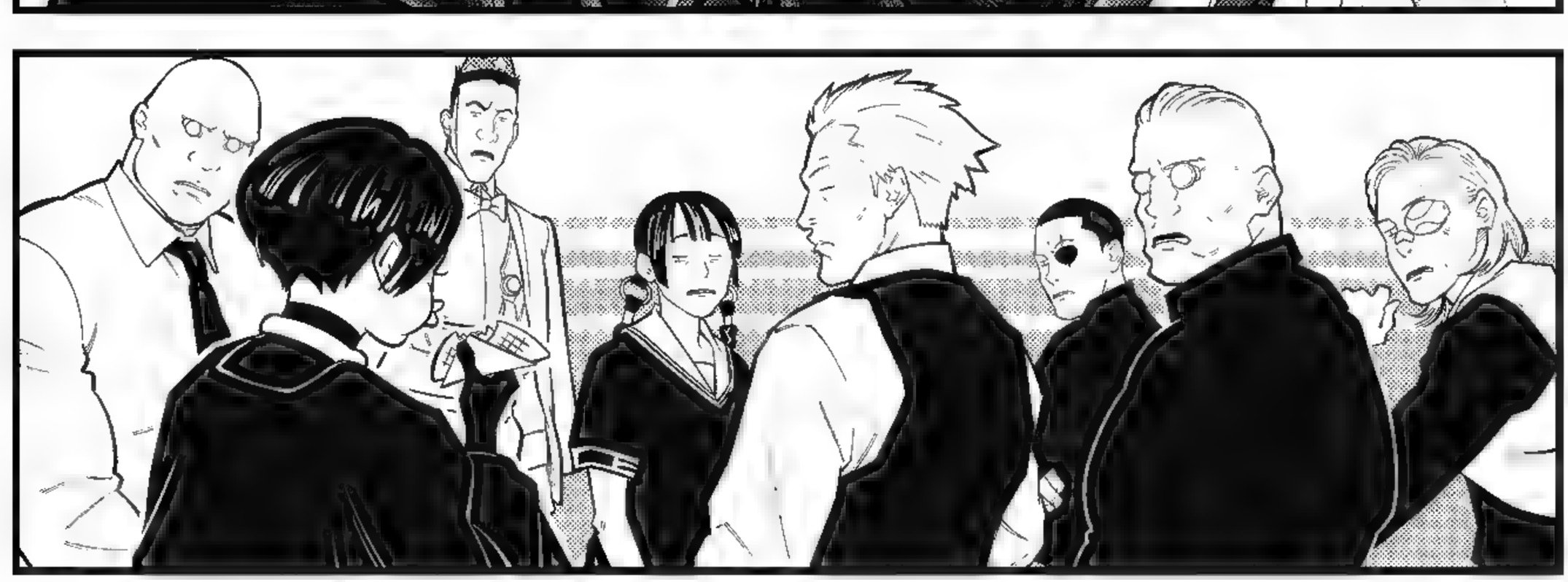
77F
PENTHOUSE BAR
74F~76F
AUTHENTIC CHINESE BA
KINTOUN
OPEN SEATS:
14
MENU
download
WELCO

GHOST COAST
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU JUST GOT BACK FROM A FUNERAL!
GAH! TALK ABOUT A MOOD KILLER!


BY THE WAY, KID...
...HOW WAS YOUR FIRST TASTE OF ACTION?

LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!
OKAY, BUT...THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A PARTY!
MAYOR MIKOMOTO'S.
WE WERE AT A FUNERAL.
YEAH... I GUESS...

...AND FOUND OUT I WAS RAISED TO BECOME A BIOLOGICAL WEAPON.
WELL, I TOOK FOUR SHOTS TO THE CHEST...
...WATCHED MY ADOPTIVE BROTHER DIE RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES...



PLICK

HEY, PAZ...

HOW 'BOUT WE LIGHTEN THINGS UP WITH A LITTLE TARGET PRACTICE?

YUP. THAT'S A MOOD KILLER, ALL RIGHT.

HA! DID YOU FORGET WHO YOU'RE TALKING TO?

YOU GOT THIS, SNIPER!

PFFT! FIVE ON SAITO!

LET'S SEE SOME ACTION!

NOW THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!

THREE BIG ONES ON PAZ!

THAT'S A HELL OF AN EYEPATCH FOR A LITTLE SCRATCH.

NOT EVEN THAT CUTE WIFE OF YOURS IS GONNA LET YOU INTO HER BED WITH THAT ON.

BUT AS LONG AS YOUR DEFENSIVE INSTINCTS KICK IN EVERY TIME YOU ENCOUNTER A THREAT, IT'LL LIMIT YOUR ABILITY TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE SITUATION.

I'LL GIVE YA CREDIT THIS TIME. FLESH AND BLOOD'S GOT ITS PERKS.

YOU OUGHTA THINK ABOUT GETTING A PROSTHETIC.

...

IF NOTHIN' ELSE, YOU WON'T HAVE TO THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY FOR NOTHIN'.

...I WENT A ROUND WITH A MONSTER.

YEAH, WELL, WHILE YOU WERE ON THE GROUND CATCHING SOME Z'S...

HA! TOUCHÉ.

...NO.

IF I EVER DECIDE TO GET ONE, IT WON'T BE FOR MY OWN SAFETY. IT'LL BE BECAUSE I'M WORRIED THAT WITHOUT IT, I WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP OTHERS FROM GETTING HURT.

IF THERE'S ANYTHING I LEARNED THIS TIME AROUND, IT'S THAT.

HEH. DON'T COME CRYIN' WHEN YOU LOSE.

BRING IT, PAZ.

ONE THROW TAKES ALL.

HA!

WE'LL SEE WHO'S CRYING!

WHAT THE—

WAY TO INTERRUPT THE GAME.

GEEZ, BATOU.

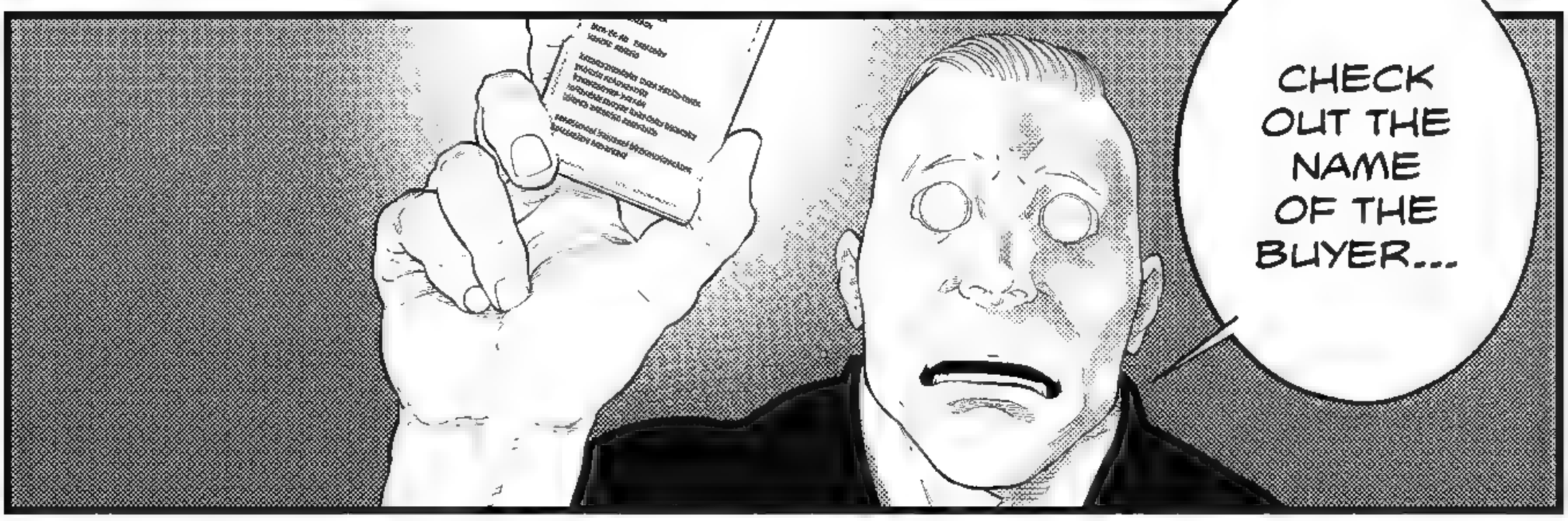
YEAH? SO WHAT?

THE COMPANY'S UP FOR SALE?

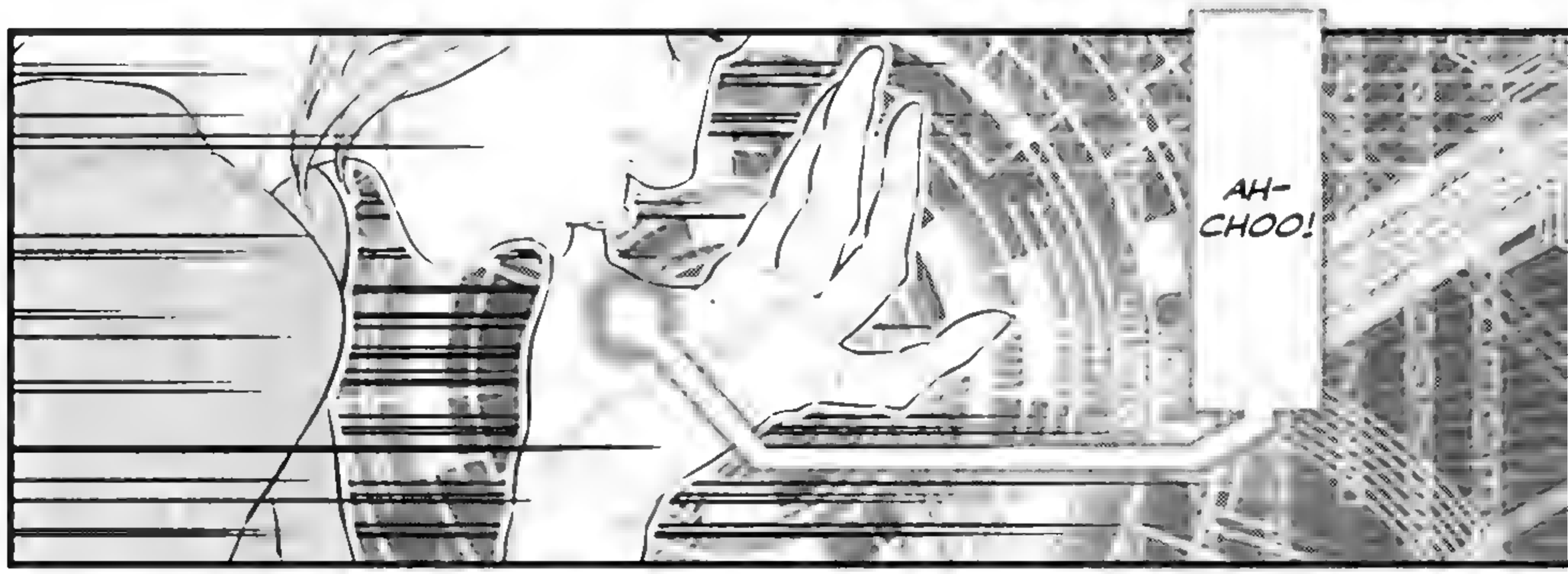
OSAKI?

YOU GUYS...

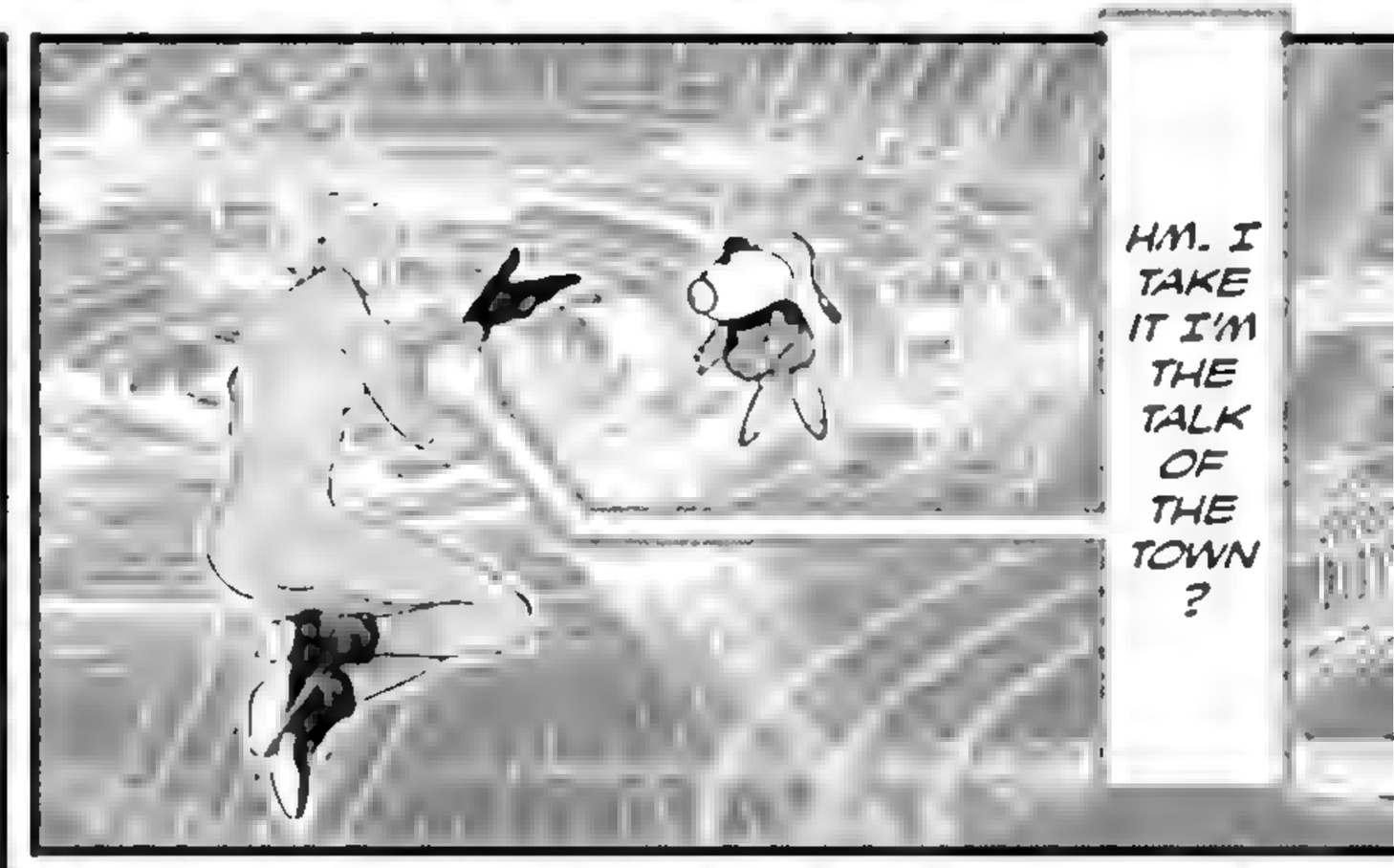
YOU WON'T BELIEVE THIS. IT'S THE OSAKI HEAVY INDUSTRIES ACQUISITION.


CHECK OUT THE NAME OF THE BUYER...

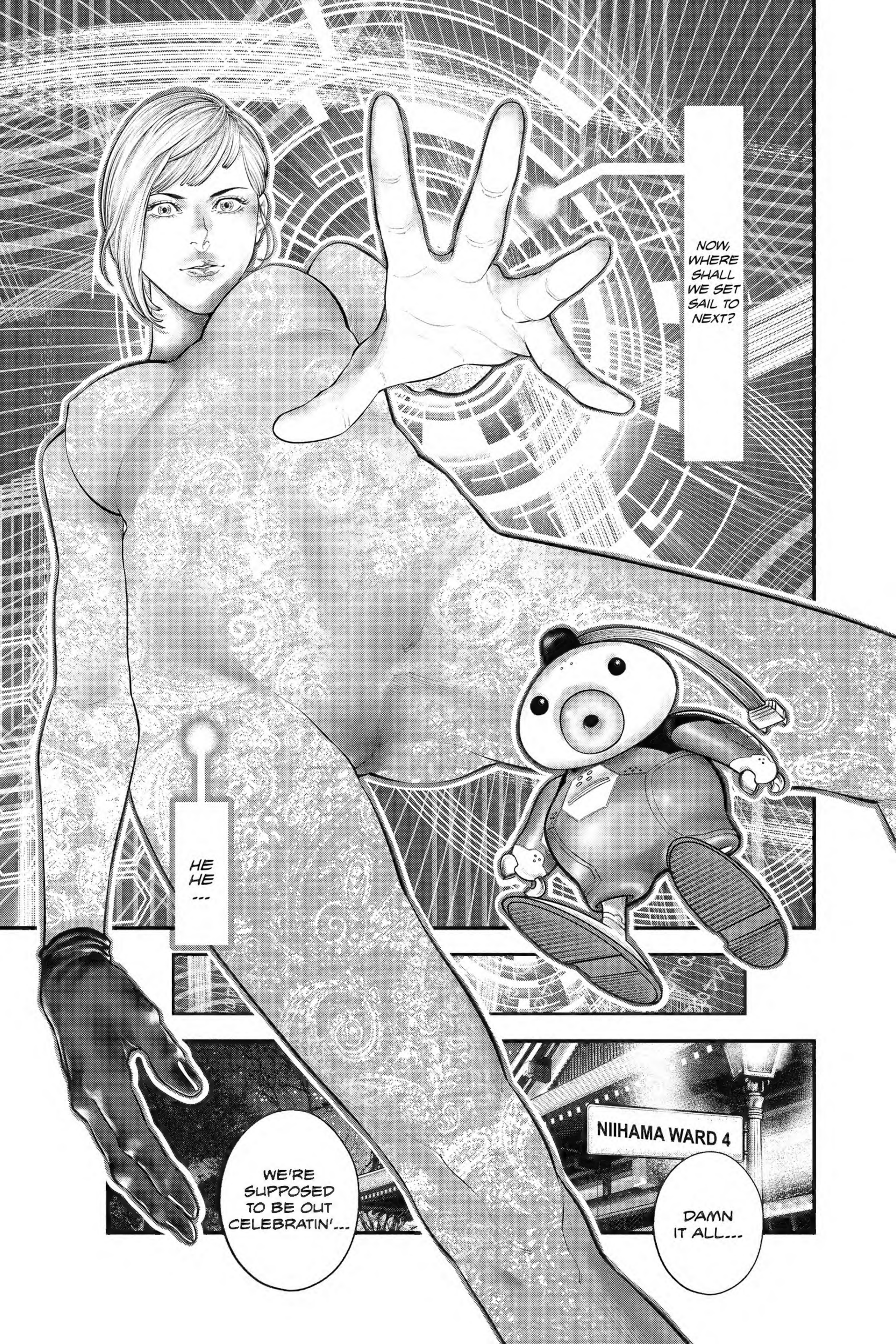
HER...?!
WAS THIS HER PLAN THE WHOLE TIME...?


AH-CHOO!

...EASY-TO-MAINTAIN PROSTHETICS. SOME NEW MANAGEMENT AND A SYSTEMS OVERHAUL, AND IT'LL BE GOOD AS NEW.
HOW COULD I RESIST? OSAKI MAKES RELIABLE ...
AND YOU BOUGHT IT FOR NEXT TO NOTHING!
I SURE HOPE I'M NEVER ON YOUR BAD SIDE...


HM. I TAKE IT I'M THE TALK OF THE TOWN?

YOU DID JUST BUY OUT A MAJOR CORPORATION, MA'AM. THAT'S GOING TO RUFFLE SOME FEATHERS...
...EVEN IF THE BUSINESS IS IN DIRE STRAITS.


NOW, WHERE SHALL WE SET SAIL TO NEXT?
HE HE ---
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE OUT CELEBRATIN'...
NIIHAMA WARD 4
DAMN IT ALL...

HOW LONG'S SHE GONNA HAVE US BY THE BALLS, HUH?

TO BE CONTINUED.....

The Ghost in the Shell: The Human Algorithm 3

Kodansha Digital Edition

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